



Memorandum

Date: May 6, 1997

To: BDAC Members

From: Lester A. Snow

Subject: "Outside" Stakeholder Processes

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is founded on a basic commitment to stakeholder collaboration and public access to all deliberations, analysis and ultimately, the preferred alternative selection. The more clearly public/stakeholder interests are understood, the more likely they can be adequately addressed in the Program. Interaction between and among interest groups helps to foster understanding and potential identification of commonality not previously appreciated. Formalized efforts at interests coordination, such as California Urban Water Agencies, Regional Council of Rural Counties, Environmental Water Caucus, Central Valley Project Water Users Association, help to focus issues of concern to particular interest groups. These efforts, and expanded discussions between interests such as the Ag/Urban Group (as discussed at the March 12, 1997 BDAC meeting), are beneficial to the extent they identify issues which are then considered in public deliberations. Examples of such beneficial discussions include the identification of critical issues to be considered in development of a transfer program, identification of necessary elements of an assurance package, or financial principles to be used to guide cost allocation. The product of such outside discussion can be introduced for public deliberation at BDAC, BDAC Work Group, or other CALFED public meetings.

However, such "off-line" discussions can be inappropriate if the intent or effect is to "decide" on an issue and limit the public understanding and debate thereby undermining the CALFED public process. An example would include a coalition's premature determination that the solution must include (or not include) a specific facility while evaluations are still underway.

As such, it is important for coordination groups and caucus' to identify issues and clearly express these views and rationales in one or more of the CALFED public forums. An acceptable, implementable preferred alternative can only result from a full public process and debate.

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service