

BDAC Finance Work Group

Meeting Summary

October 27, 1997

Zach McReynolds distributed an example financial strategy that set forth options for funding for program components. This example gave rise to a number of comments and suggestions about how the funding strategy should be developed. Most of the discussion related to the potential for a new user fee for funding of common programs. Those in attendance expressed a number of concerns and considerations that they felt such a fee would have to address in order to be effective:

- The scope of who pays the fee would need to be identified. Generally the fee concept discussed was intended to be broadly applicable, including those who divert water upstream of the Delta.
- How the fee applied to those both with and without existing contracts would have to be determined. This relates to how the fee would be collected, as well as to how any other payments might be credited against any new fee.
- The Program may create different levels of benefits for different users, this may need to be reflected in the fee.
- Any funds collected through such a fee would need to be strictly protected and use limited to those things for which the fee was collected.
- The uses for such a fee would need to be clearly identified and described. In the context of adaptive management, this will be challenging.
- Ability to pay concerns may have to be considered for some parties, perhaps through some sort of phased imposition of the fee over time.

Those in attendance suggested that a listing of existing revenue sources was needed prior to discussion of any new fees, in order to determine what could be reprogrammed and what new funding was needed. There was some discussion of how such funding would be credited against any new obligations, and a request was made to put this topic on a future agenda. The crediting discussion should include appropriate treatment for in-kind contributions, local costs, and CVPIA Restoration Fund payments, among other things.

Attendance

Eric Hasseltine
Dennis O'Connor
Craig Stroh
Marni Buchanan

Rich Atwater
Randall Neudeck
Amy Fowler
Julie MaClay

Robert Mott
David Yardas