

BAY-DELTA ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Package

March 19-20, 1998

Burbank Airport Hilton & Convention Center

2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank

9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**



Memorandum

Date: March 5, 1998

To: BDAC Members

From: Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

Subject: Upcoming BDAC Meeting in Burbank, March 19-20, 1998

The next meeting of the Bay-Delta Advisory Council will be held on **Thursday and Friday, March 19-20, 1998 at the Burbank Airport Hilton & Convention Center in Burbank, California.**

I want first to take this opportunity to thank all of you on the Council who have devoted countless hours of your time over the last two and a half years, providing feedback and advice to CALFED staff, chairing or participating in BDAC Work Groups, attending many long and demanding public meetings, and in numerous other ways making a substantial and dedicated effort to ensure the integrity of the CALFED planning process.

As this memorandum goes to press, the CALFED Program is poised to release its long-awaited DEIR/EIS on March 16, 1998. In the minds of some, the release of the DEIR/EIS represents the end of a long process of planning, serious debate and spirited exchanges on significant technical and public policy issues. However, the release of the DEIR/EIS also signals the beginning of yet another more challenging effort. Over the next several months the CALFED Program will be taking public comments on the DEIR/EIS, through public hearings throughout the state, additional public workshops, and through written comments. While further technical analysis will be carried out before final decision on a preferred alternative and certification of the final EIR, the greater challenge facing us will be in the public policy arena.

The purpose of the upcoming meeting in Burbank, therefore, is several-fold. First, to provide a general orientation to BDAC and the public on the DEIR/S and on the Phase II report. *The Phase II report will be mailed to BDAC members via Federal Express on the date of release. Copies of the report will be available to the public at the BDAC meeting.*

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
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

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Second, we will be asking BDAC a set of critical policy questions. We will describe the nature of the decision facing the CALFED agencies, and present some central concepts pertaining to how the Program should be implemented. These concepts have potential implications for the decision on a preferred alternative. The first is the extent to which common Program actions can and should be linked to one another over time to ensure that all components of the Program -- ecosystem restoration, water quality improvements, levee improvements, water use efficiency improvements and water supply reliability improvements -- move forward together. By linking and staging Program actions through a defined set of Program conditions, Program requirements, and cost allocation arrangements, all communities of interest will have a greater sense of assurance that the solution principles of the Program will be in place over time.

Third, you will be asked to discuss the critical role of assurances over the course of the two-day meeting, both conceptually and specifically. In addition, you will be asked to deliberate in more depth on the public policy question regarding public and private cost allocation for various components of the common programs and potential storage and conveyance facilities.

In addition, we are asking for your comments on the draft strategic plan for the Ecosystem Restoration Program. As you know, the Ecosystem Restoration Work Group has led the effort on development of this plan. CALFED staff, along with the work group and other stakeholders who have been actively involved in this effort, are seeking your concurrence on the direction the plan is taking.

Finally, since we are holding this meeting in the Los Angeles area, we wanted to provide ample opportunity to hear from Southern California residents regarding their views on the CALFED Program. We have asked three of our southern California BDAC members to anchor a discussion which will also include invited comments from about a dozen Southern Californians representing different communities and perspectives.

As you will note, the topic of agricultural land conversion is not included in this meeting's agenda. In order to give this subject the attention it deserves, we are tentatively planning to convene an additional BDAC meeting in June, to be held in the Central Valley, exact location to be announced.

The May BDAC meeting is scheduled for May 14, 1998 and will be held in Redding. The focus at the May meeting will be a status report on public comments received and an overview and discussion of the CALFED Watershed Management Strategy.

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Attached is your packet of the materials for the March meeting. It includes the following items:

- Draft Agenda
- January 29, 1998 Meeting Summary
- Draft Strategic Plan for the Ecosystem Restoration Program
- Draft Implementation Strategy and Finance Issues Discussion
- Restoration Coordination Status
- Public Involvement Strategy
- Work Group Meeting Summaries
- Correspondence from BDAC Members and Responses

I look forward to meeting with you all on March 19-20.