



Memorandum

Date: April 24, 1998
To: BDAC Members
From: Lester A. Snow *LAS*
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
Subject: BDAC Meeting May 14, 1998

Thank you in advance for your participation in our upcoming BDAC meeting in Redding. The meeting will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel on Thursday, May 14.

The principal focus of this meeting will be on the aspects of the CALFED Program which are of greatest concern to the diverse communities of Northern California, including the upper watersheds and the Sacramento River Valley. We have an ambitious agenda which we hope will both enlighten BDAC members about the concerns of Northern Californians and stimulate productive discussion on critical CALFED policies regarding Program implementation, watershed management, and finance.

The agenda for the meeting on Thursday will focus on four principle topics:

- ▶ Discussion of the refinement of the CALFED Implementation Strategy
- ▶ Presentation and discussion of the CALFED Watershed Management Strategy
- ▶ Presentation and discussion of Northern California issues of concern; and
- ▶ Defining the Finance principle of "beneficiaries pay"

Many of you expressed satisfaction with the panel of speakers who addressed BDAC at our March meeting in Burbank. We have attempted to replicate and refine the panel format for our meeting in Redding. Discussion of the CALFED watershed management strategy will include input and comments from members of the CALFED Watershed Management Advisory Team, as well as key stakeholder representatives. They will be summarizing the outcome of the two CALFED-sponsored public meetings on the Watershed Management Program which will have taken place on April 23 and April 30 in Sacramento and Redding, respectively.

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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A significant portion of the meeting will be devoted to an in-depth discussion of Northern California issues and concerns. Representatives from the Northern California Water Association will provide BDAC members with a brief introduction to the environmental and economic geography of the northern state, and a panel of commentators will offer diverse perspectives to BDAC on their particular concerns and desires with regard to the CALFED Program. We have also invited Senator Maurice Johannessen to speak to BDAC. Senator Johannessen, who represents a large portion of Northern California, was recently appointed Chair of the newly formed Senate Select Committee on CALFED Water Program.

We will also be asking for BDAC feedback on the progress to date in refining the implementation strategy which I presented to you at the March meeting in Burbank. We are specifically interested in your evaluation of the pros and cons on the options for defining the nature of the decision and on our most recent thinking on staging and linking Program actions. The CALFED Management Team and Policy Group have been focusing on these critical issues. We will be sending you under separate cover an updated white paper on implementation, which will be based on input from the Policy Group which meets on May 1.

We will also be asking BDAC members to assist in defining more specifically the finance principle of "beneficiaries pay," which you discussed at the March meeting.

We will also provide you with a report on the public comments on the draft EIR/S received in the numerous public hearings across the state which began on April 21 and will conclude on May 28. We encourage all of you to attend at least one of the public hearings if your schedule permits.

On a final note, CALFED will be holding a public hearing on the draft EIR/S on Thursday evening. An informal question and answer period will begin at 6 p.m., and the hearing will begin at 7 p.m. This hearing will also be held at the DoubleTree Hotel. This is another opportunity for you to express your views on the EIR/S and on the CALFED effort in general.

Your meeting packet includes the following materials:

Draft Meeting Agenda
March 19-20 meeting summary
Watershed Management Strategy
Water Transfers White Paper Outline
Water Transfers Clearinghouse discussion paper
Beneficiaries Pay: Implications for Cost Allocation paper

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Restoration Coordination Update memo
Work Group meeting summaries:

- Ecosystem Restoration
- Assurance
- Water transfers
- Watershed Management

BDAC letters and Responses

*The CALFED Primer: The Problem, the Process, the Potential**
Public Hearing Calendar

If you have any questions about the meeting or the agenda, please call Mary Selkirk at (916) 657-2666. As a reminder, we will be having monthly meetings of BDAC through July. We will be meeting again in Fresno on June 18 and in the Bay area on July 16. Please mark your calendars. We look forward to seeing you soon in Redding.

*Only BDAC members are receiving the *CALFED Primer* in this packet. Members of the public who wish to obtain a copy may call 1-800-900-3587. Copies will also be available at the BDAC meeting.