

WORK GROUP MEETING SUMMARIES

**BDAC Ecosystem Restoration Work Group
Meeting Summary
March 4, 1998**

The BDAC Ecosystem Restoration Work Group was held on Wednesday, March 4 at the Resources Building in Room 1131 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

BDAC Members of the Work Group:

Roberta Borgonovo

Invited Participants in Attendance:

Gary Bobker
Pete Rhoads
Frank Wernette

CALFED Staff/ Consultants in Attendance:

Scott Cantrell
Dick Daniel
Bellory Fong
Marti Kie
Peter Kiel

Other Participants in Attendance:

John Cain
Lori Clamurro
Bruce DiGennaro
Wilton Fryer
Michael Gutterres
Liz Howard
Brenda Johnson
Mike Kinchelove
Dan Keppen
Virginia Mahacek
Jack Mellor
Joe Miyamoto
Douglas Morrison
Vickie Newlin
Dennis O'Connor
Larry Puckett
Aldo Sansoni
Steve Shaffer
Robert Twiss
Julie Tupper
Paul Winsheropp

Draft Meeting Summary

Roberta Borgonovo (Chair, BDAC Ecosystem Restoration Work Group) began the meeting at 1:40 p.m. with introductions and a discussion of the agenda. The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss the CALFED proposal to prepare a Strategic Plan for Ecosystem Restoration.

Strategic Plan

Dick Daniel provided an overview of the Strategic Plan and its relation to the ERPP, the Conservation Strategy and the entire CALFED Program.

- The Strategic Plan is a programmatic-level restoration strategy document that will enable CALFED and stakeholders to develop region-specific Ecological Zone implementation plans.
- The Strategic Plan is an approach of dealing with scientific uncertainty.

Dick presented the following diagram:



Roberta Borgonovo stated that the Strategic Plan and scientific review process being developed is very responsive to the Work Group's recommendations presented to BDAC two or three months ago.

Proposed Goals for the Strategic Plan

Gary Bobker began the discussion on proposed goals for the Strategic Plan. Gary and other stakeholders and agency staff have met informally to offer recommendations to CALFED and the Work Group on the Strategic Plan. Gary and Dick Daniel stated that new goals would be needed in order to develop quantifiable restoration objectives and would supercede the general, vague goals listed in the draft ERPP. Gary offered four proposed goals for the Strategic Plan. Those goals were discussed and refined at the meeting and are included below. (The goals were presented by Dick Daniel to BDAC in March and have been adopted for the Strategic Plan).

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| <p>Proposed Goals for Strategic Plan</p> <p>A. Achieve recovery of listed native species within the Delta and Suisun Bay, support recovery of listed native species in the Bay-Delta estuary and its watershed, and avoid the need for future endangered species listings.</p> <p>B. Rehabilitate the natural capacity of the Bay-Delta estuary and its watershed to support, with minimal ongoing human intervention, native aquatic and associated terrestrial biological communities.</p> <p>C. Maintain and enhance populations of selected species for safe consumption and sustainable commercial and recreational harvest, consistent with goals A and B.</p> <p>D. Protect or restore a range of key, functional habitat types for biodiversity, scientific research, and other public values.</p> |
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A meeting participant asked how long it would take to translate these broad goals into quantifiable objectives. He stated that the public has waited for years and needs to know how much it will cost and what will be accomplished. Dick and Gary responded that CALFED has worked for the last three years to quantify the results and that the six month Strategic Plan effort should bring us very close to the important results.

Ecosystem Science Program

Dick Daniel provided an overview of the three-tiered Ecosystem Science Program. The Science Program is the formal scientific review process for CALFED ecosystem restoration.

Conceptual Models

Bellory Fong summarized the progress of the Indicators Group to develop conceptual ecosystem models. An overview of the conceptual models was included in the companion document to the ERPP, *Developing a Strategic Plan for Ecosystem Restoration*. The companion document was provided in the previous Work Group packet and also in a technical appendix in the CALFED Programmatic EIS/EIR.

Conservation Strategy

Mike Fris (FWS) presented an overview and status report of the Conservation Strategy.

- The Conservation Strategy is the primary tool for the CALFED Program ESA, CESA and NCCP compliance.
- The Conservation Strategy will include Section 7 consultation.
- The Conservation Strategy will function as a Biological Assessment for individual project permits, but will not take care of all permitting needs for the projects.
- At the end of Phase II of the CALFED Program, some actions will have enough information to start permitting.

Next steps:

- preparation/identification of the conservation strategy
- integration of the Conservation Strategy with the Strategic Plan and other CALFED elements.
- stakeholder involvement

Pete Rhoads suggested that the Conservation Strategy staff should get stakeholders involved as soon as possible. He stated that the CALFED Program has worked best when stakeholders are involved in the conceptual planning phases of its programs.

Public Comment

Cary Wright, Sweetwater Authority, suggested that CALFED needs to show accountability for its spending and actions to the public and taxpayers. He said that the CALFED process is very insular and that the general public has little idea of what CALFED is doing.

Dick Daniel concurred and also stated that CALFED is required to provide annual reports to California on the spending of Prop. 204 funds and that CALFED regularly briefs Congress.

Dan Keppen stated that NCWA wants the goals for the Strategic Plan to meet CALFED solution principles. He suggested that the goals should be modified to reflect those principles, especially no significant redirected impacts.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the BDAC Ecosystem Restoration Work Group was scheduled for Wednesday, April 7, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.