

Restoration Coordination



Memorandum

Date: June 2, 1998

To: BDAC Members

From: Lester A. Snow
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Subject: Restoration Coordination Program

Summary

The Ecosystem Roundtable has recommended that the CALFED Bay-Delta Program proceed with steps to establish a \$14 to 16 million drought reserve from the federal Bay-Delta Act funds for FY 99 (see attached proposed policy principles and guidelines). The Ecosystem Roundtable has also identified several important policy issues that will need to be carefully resolved on a case-by-case basis when specific acquisitions are identified.

Questions for BDAC Discussion

BDAC members are being asked for their input on any additional important considerations that should be addressed as specific acquisitions are developed as well as any input on the establishment of a drought reserve for water acquisition.

Detailed Discussion

CALFED has worked with the Integration Panel to identify gaps remaining based on the December 1997 and January 1998 proposals that were approved. Many of these gaps are to be filled through the Proposal Solicitation that was released in early May. One recommendation that is still being developed is allocation of \$20 million for improved instream flows.

The Ecosystem Roundtable has been developing a set of principles to guide any water acquisitions with this funding. They have identified fourteen principles and have not been able to reach consensus on four of the fourteen. These four include the need to link water

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

Restoration Coordination Program

June 2, 1998

Page Two

acquisition for the environment to water management infrastructure, the degree of local and regional consensus on a particular acquisition, the scale of the environmental and economic analysis for transfers, and the ability to reuse environmental water downstream.

The Ecosystem Roundtable has recommended that a \$14 to 16 million drought reserve be established from FY 99 funds. They have further recommended that individual transfers be considered by the Roundtable to ensure that the policy principles are resolved on a case-by-case basis. One Roundtable member referred to the recommendation to proceed with the reserve as a "laboratory for assurances."