



## Memorandum

Date: September 30, 1998  
To: BDAC Members  
From: Lester Snow   
Subject: BDAC and BDAC Work Group Assessment

As you all know, the CALFED Program is close to reaching a decision on a draft preferred alternative. Sometime next week all of you will be receiving a draft copy of the revised Phase II Report, and we are seeking your comments on the document as it moves toward the final version.

The draft EIR/S is scheduled for release at the end of the year. Completion of the revised draft will trigger another round of critically important public and comment. I know that many of you have expressed concern about the role of BDAC and how your input is integrated into the Program. In planning for the next phase of input into the Program, we want to ensure that we structure BDAC involvement and input in a way that maximizes the contributions you have to make to the Program, and which best utilizes your membership on the Council. To that end, we will be initiating an assessment of the effectiveness of BDAC and the BDAC Work Groups to help us plan for the coming phase of BDAC activity.

Beginning later this week, you will be contacted by with Mary Selkirk or Eugenia Laychak who have developed a set of questions for you which focus on your assessment of the effectiveness of BDAC, on improvements you might suggest for the coming year, and your views on the areas of the Program where you think BDAC input will be most critical in 1999, and potentially through mid-2000, following certification of the final EIR/S. Those of you who have been actively involved in one or more of the BDAC Work Groups will also be asked to assess the effectiveness of the Work Groups.

In order to help you focus your comments, I am including below objectives for BDAC as described in the original BDAC Charter, dated January 11, 1995:

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**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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"Specific responsibilities of the Bay-Delta Advisory Council include:

- a. Recommend objectives to be met, including both the problems to be addressed and a specific set of objectives.
- b. Recommend neutral evaluation criteria to measure the effectiveness of alternative solutions consistent with statutory and regulatory authorities.
- c. Recommend specific solution alternatives to be evaluated in a formal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process carried out by one or more agencies.
- d. As part of the NEPA/CEQA environmental documentation process, recommend the best solution alternative for implementation by the appropriate agencies." (United States Department of the Interior Charter, Bay Delta Advisory Council, Article 2, page 1)

Mary and Eugenia will take the results of their discussions with each of you and make recommendations to me, and to you as BDAC members, regarding Council activities in the coming year. I thank you in advance for your taking the time to talk with them. And I thank you again for your tireless commitment to the CALFED effort.