CALFED Ecosystem Roundtable Meeting Notes
October 28, 1998

Roundtable members (or their representatives) and Liaisons present:
Steve Evans (FOR)
Greg Gartrell (CCWD)
Randy Kanouse (EBMUD)
Dan Keppen (NCWA)
Cynthia Keohler (Save the Bay)
Laura King (SLDMWA)
Hari Modi (NCPA)
Jason Peltier (CVPWA)
David Yardas (EDF)
Tom Zuckerman (CDWA)

Patrick Leonard (USFWS)
Carolyn Yale (USEPA)
Sue Ramos (USBR)

Announcements
It was suggested that the Ecosystem Roundtable members have CMARP give a presentation at the next meeting. The first draft of their report will be sent out 11/23/98. The Restoration Fund Roundtable meeting set for Wednesday November 4, 1998 has changed to a 10:00 a.m. conference call.

Cindy Darling announced she would be taking maternity leave at the end of December, and introduced Wendy Halverson-Martin as the new Ecosystem Restoration Coordinator.

Future Meeting Dates -
Monday, **December 7**, Workshop with the Roundtable and the Integration Panel, beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the Resources Building, Room 1118
Friday, **December 11** beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Resources Building, Room 1131
Wednesday, **December 16** beginning at 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday **January 13** beginning at 9:30 a.m.

FY 99 Priorities, Planning, and Schedule
A revised Draft Recommended FY 99 Priorities package, based on previous Roundtable review, was presented and the revisions explained. Cindy asked the Roundtable members to send her any opinions on what to emphasize in FY 99 to achieve an appropriate balance.

The group discussed the next steps in the FY 99 process. Regional meetings to get input from local technical experts and the public on FY 99 actions, regional needs and additional projects to considered will be held on:

November 9, 1998 at Modesto - San Joaquin River and Tributaries
November 17, 1998 at Courtland – Delta/East Side Tributaries/North Bay
November 19, 1998 at Sacramento – Sacramento River and Tributaries

Input from these meetings will be sent to the Integration Panel, which will meet on December 1-3, 1998 and develop the FY 99 Action Plan. The FY 99 Action Plan will be integrated with CVPIA's FY 99 funding plan and will be generally consistent with the direction CALFED is going with the long term program. It will also be more than just a list of projects but will include rationale, linkage to previously funded projects, and adaptive management approach for each project. A workshop with the Ecosystem Roundtable and the Integration Panel to review the draft Action Plan is scheduled for Monday December 7, 1998.

CVPIA/CALFED Program Integration

Jim McKevitt presented the draft five year plan budget and timeline for CVPIA implementation, including anadromous fish restoration, water supplies for refuges and state management areas, and other mitigation land and habitat restoration under B1 actions. The two page 1999 budget was revised and the updated budget was distributed. Comments on this draft plan can still be sent in for a short time. Additional comments on the year 2000 budget may be received at the public hearings scheduled for May-August 1999.

There are many opportunities for integration and coordination, and CALFED and CVPIA will continue to closely coordinate their activities. It was suggested that CVPIA try to set aside a chunk of funds to incorporate into the proposal solicitation process once it is completed. CVPIA responded that it is easier to direct CVPIA funds to CALFED directed programs rather than the proposal solicitation process. If the CVPIA program continues to get funding reductions, they would likely fund the higher priority actions identified in earlier documentation, rather than on a project by project basis.

Don Glaser's report on the Restoration Coordination Program

Don Glaser is a consultant who has been working on review of the program, with a three-month time frame to assess the program and make recommendations for improvement. The draft report is near completion, pending interviews with two more key personnel. Roundtable members can still comment on or be interviewed for the report for another week. His observations:

- The process has been successful given the circumstances. We have now funded the more obvious projects for restoration and are moving toward a more difficult phase of sorting out projects to fund. We have had two good rounds of solicitations and the contract files are in good shape.
- The contract files need to have better documentation and a better process. He concurs that we need to have quick review of the monitoring plans to allow the projects to move forward, and monitoring needs should be more explicit in

the next psp package. He is also concerned that there has not been enough funding for monitoring in some of the earlier proposals.

- Future issues include:
  a. More attention to procedures—document goals and have a clear program, particularly for the FY 99 process;
  b. Need schedules for projects and a monitoring program in place so can show progress;
  c. Federal appropriators will want results sooner rather than later;
  d. Insure common expectations on fiscal and performance relative to objectives. Let decision-makers know how long projects are expected to take until results are available.
  e. More timely and expanded stakeholder process, get materials out with enough time for review and input and management reaction; federal and state outreach is important, especially with a change in administration, also coordinate outreach with ERPP and CMARP goals and objectives;
  f. Need more emphasis on federal/state coordination;
  g. Need to increase more staff and fill positions, since more projects and work to be done.
- Outside review of CALFED program: Pre-audit internal review, expect more outside review, be ready to answer questions as to why we need both CVPIA and CALFED; he recommends keep these programs separate because it would take a lot of energy and resources trying to change institutional structure. Public expectation is very high with this process so we need to show we can integrate program objectives for the two programs.
- Other programs to follow: Chesapeake, Everglades and Grand Canyon in particular have a good integration for research.

Implementation Update

An update of the status of the 1997 project status was presented. Roundtable members had questions about the level of local participation and outreach on land acquisition projects particularly on the Sacramento River. The Roundtable members wanted all parties to be informed and have a chance to participate, particularly with the proposals on the Sacramento River. We will have a presentation by The Nature Conservancy on their Sacramento River project at the next Roundtable meeting.

Water Quality actions

There are three water quality actions that CALFED staff has been working with technical experts to develop additional detail on. These actions will be included in a solicitation package either in December or in January. The Roundtable members indicated that they wanted to see the information on these actions before any public solicitation was released. This item will be scheduled for the December meeting.

Madera Ranch
CALFED has not funded this project. Several issues, including technical and environmental issues, will need to be resolved between the project sponsors and stakeholders before funding would be reconsidered.

Status of other May 98 Proposal Solicitation Projects
98-A1004 – Opening up Butte Creek Canyon to Salmon and Steelhead Passage. The Integration Panel has recommended funding for this project with the first task being a meeting with the Butte Creek Conservancy and with technical experts. The applicant has already scheduled a meeting to consider these issues. Butte County expressed concern about notification about a project in their county. The Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy expressed concern and opposition to funding for the project at this time. The Roundtable did not act on the Integration Panel's recommendation and will reconsider the issue when the results of the local meeting are available.

98-A1005 – Study Englebright Decommissioning: To ensure that there is no confusion, CALFED has distributed a letter to concerned parties clarifying that we have not funded proposal A1005 looking at decommissioning Englebright Dam. We have asked USFWS and DFG to work with Yuba County Water Agency and other interested parties to see what, if any, restoration actions the local community would want to pursue. A facilitated meeting was being scheduled. The local marina owner and a houseboat owner both expressed strong opposition to any study of dam removal. Both of these individuals will be invited to the local meeting.

Update on Battle Creek
Roundtable members were updated on progress being made on previously selected projects on Battle Creek. Roundtable members were pleased with the progress being made on these projects. Many of the parties involved in these projects are also currently negotiating a much larger restoration project that could open up over 40 miles of salmon and steelhead habitat on Battle Creek. This larger project is expected to be part of the FY 99 Action Plan.