

**BDAC Ecosystem Restoration Work Group
Draft Meeting Summary
October 6, 1998**

The BDAC Ecosystem Restoration Work Group was held on Tuesday, October 6, 1998 at the Resources Building in Room 1131 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Strategic Plan

The Core Team's completed Strategic Plan, dated September 30, 1998, was distributed at the meeting. This is a revision of the first draft completed August 31. The Strategic Plan consultant report is undergoing agency review and the final CALFED Strategic Plan will be released for public review by the end of December.

Comments on contents of the plan include the following:

- The objectives tend to be qualitative and are therefore difficult to measure. A methodology to quantify the objectives should be developed. Descriptive terms such as "self-sustaining," "sufficient," etc. should be clarified and, if possible, quantified.
- The list of objectives is exhaustive but it is unclear which objectives are the most important to consider. The key objectives should be highlighted in order to focus the approach of the restoration program.
- The contaminant/aquatic toxicity objectives are not compatible with the approach developed by the Water Quality Technical Group and should be revised accordingly.

Comments on the process of preparing the plan include the following:

- The Core Team process was very successful and should be applied for other elements of the CALFED Program.
- The Core Team should have consulted with stakeholder and agency experts (like the technical advisors convened for the Scientific Review Panel) in preparing the plan to incorporate a broader diversity of technical opinion.
- Resource economics should be included in the review process for the ecosystem program. CALFED should hire a resource economist to assure that fiscal accountability is built into the ecosystem program decisions.

Scientific Review Panel Workshop

CALFED staff described a proposal to host another workshop of the Scientific Review Panel in March, 1999. The focus of the workshop would be review of the Strategic Plan, indicators of ecological health, and a stage 1 implementation plan. Work Group participants strongly supported the proposal and suggested that the Work Group help plan for the workshop in January



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and February 1999.

Work Group Recommendations

1. The Core Team should have continued involvement in CALFED issues. Specific recommendations for Core Team involvement include:
 - Offer input to the Restoration Coordination Program on FY 99 priorities and how to incorporate adaptive management into near-term restoration
 - Review the work of the Diversion Effects on Fish Team
 - Assist in identification of stage 1 actions for the long-term restoration program
 - Improve Volumes I and II of the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan
2. CALFED should convene the scientific review panel Technical Advisors as a standing science body to provide ongoing review of the Ecosystem Restoration Program. This group should be regularly convened to provide input and help CALFED staff and the Core Team develop the restoration program.
3. CALFED should reconvene the Scientific Review Panel in March 1999.
4. CALFED should consider hiring a resource economist to evaluate restoration proposals and other aspects of the program.

Next Meeting

The Ecosystem Restoration Work Group is not scheduled to meet until January 1999. The focus of the meeting is to plan for the Scientific Review Panel workshop proposed for March 1999.