

98-388

Environmental Water Caucus

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TO: CALFED Policy Group

RE: Request for criteria for consideration of isolated facility

Recommendations:

1. Broaden request to "development of specific criteria for meeting CALFED water quality objective."

Specific performance standards for program elements:

Dissolved oxygen
Drinking Water
Mercury
Pesticides
Organochlorine Pesticides
Salinity
Selenium
Trace Metals
Turbidity and Sedimentation

2. Incorporate Water Quality Technical Team recommendations (Sept. 21, 1998 Working Draft) and ensure Technical Team recommendations for actions are included in Draft Preferred Alternative.
3. Incorporate Findings of Expert Panel:
 - Bromides higher than typically found in drinking water supplies;
 - Address organic carbons as well as bromides;
 - Address fecal contamination in source waters since lower levels of pathogens allows for less disinfection;
 - Some water treatment technology appear promising, e.g., membrane technology to remove both organic carbon and bromide as well as removing infective microorganisms;
 - Develop short-term strategy for meeting Stage I of D/DBR in November;
 - Recent research has identified hundreds of chemicals that could result from drinking water treatment - many

incorporate bromine so bromide issues likely to remain a concern.

4. Incorporate Recommendations of Expert Panel

- CALFED should be active participant in information collection process;
- Sources of bromide other than the ocean should be further investigated;
- Additional modeling studies need to be performed to predict concentrations of individual DBP chemicals that would result from the alternatives (CALFED alternatives?);
- Evaluate new treatment process for preventing or removing bromine-containing DBP in drinking water
- Work with urban agencies to develop common means of measuring and evaluating phenomena related to DBP formulation - effort would result in broader capability to learn from and profit from experience of individual agencies;
- Support efforts to refine the capability to perform and appropriately apply human health risk assessments
- Monitor w.q. parameters having potential for health concern in the foreseeable future;
- Develop cost trade-offs for source water and treatment alternatives;
- Support investigation of measures to reduce organic carbon in Delta source waters
- Support development of improved analytical methodology and development of an adequate information base on the presence of protozoans in Delta Source waters.

5. Improve understanding of the problem:

- Improve understanding of the Delta through 1) further characterization of the byproduct precursors in ag drainage to better estimate the magnitude of the problem; 2) a study to evaluate agricultural sources of bromide relative to seawater intrusion (i.e., the LLNL work); 3) detailed modeling for specific precursors and disinfection byproducts of concern; 4) creation of current data base for the constituents of concern; and 5) development of an appropriate monitoring program;
- Convene independent expert panel on modeling
- Use CALFED modeling team to examine reoperation of existing system (DEFT work);
- Convene independent expert panel to examine short-term actions unrelated to conveyance alternatives;

- Include the following analyses to address the uncertainty of future drinking water standards: a) Various standards (regulation) scenarios; b) Ways to treat contaminants under various scenarios; c) Cost with a peripheral canal and cost without a peripheral canal; d) Examination of the source of other contaminants (focusing on source control in Sac. Valley and elsewhere); e) Examination of the other options for improving water quality, such as sending high quality water to S. Calif. for drinking water purposes and using lower quality from Delta for agricultural purposes. These options might include exchanges and/or reoperational adjustments. Financial incentives for users giving up higher quality water could be considered.
- Ensure water quality monitoring and research needs are incorporated in CMARP
- Fund LLNL work on bromides within CMARP or through independent funding effort.

6. Focus on near-term improvements (See #2 above).

7. Insure public buy in for CALFED water quality program:

- Insure adequate funding for stakeholder involvement - grant to environmental representatives to bring technical expertise to the table;
- Fund Delta Keeper and Bay Keeper as independent citizen water quality monitoring programs;
- Disseminate data resulting from research and monitoring programs in term public can understand;
- Integrate peer review into all scientific studies and publish results so open to public scrutiny