

**Draft**  
**BAY-DELTA ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**March 25, 1999**  
**Holiday Inn Select, Bakersfield**

**Major Outcomes**

- Water Management Strategy and Integrated Storage Investigation - BDAC generally concurred with the proposed approach.
- Governance - BDAC concurred that state/federal parity is a principle for guiding development of the CALFED governing structure.
- Proposed Stage One Actions, Bundles and Preliminary Cost Estimates - Most of BDAC concurred with the proposed approach. Three BDAC members disagreed with the approach.

**Welcome and Chair's Report (Chair Mike Madigan)**

Chair Mike Madigan opened the meeting at 8:45 am. Introductions of BDAC members and guests were made. The Chair thanked the organizers of the local tour and reception, which were held on March 24. Robert Meacher, Alex Hildebrand, Gene Andreuccetti and the Chair volunteered to work with the Ecosystem Roundtable in developing recommendations on the 1999 restoration coordination funding package.

**Review and Concurrence on CALFED Bay-Delta Program Approach for the Water Management Strategy and Integrated Storage Investigation (Chief Deputy Director Steve Ritchie and Guest Panel)**

Chief Deputy Director Steve Ritchie introduced the topics and presented the information contained in the packet and the handout provided at the meeting.

***Discussion***

Mr. Meacher and Mr. Hildebrand discussed the benefits of water conservation in the source/upper watershed areas and how policy preferences and decisions will affect the economic evaluation of water management alternatives. BDAC members Byron Buck, Alex Hildebrand, and Chair Mike Madigan weighed in on the particular array of policy preferences that will affect the economic evaluation, commented on the need to include economic principles, and observed there is an apparent disconnect between preferences of the CALFED agencies and those of local government. BDAC members Richard Izmirian and Ann Notthoff discussed that coordination between project operations and the economic analysis are not yet apparent.

Mr. Tom Clark (General Manager, Kern County Water Agency) and Mr. Spreck Rosekrans (Economic Analyst, Environmental Defense Fund) explained the views of their respective

caucuses on the Integrated Storage Investigation. Mr. Rosekrans summarized the Environmental Water Caucus's written comments on the Water Management Strategy and the Integrated Storage Investigation. He suggested that stakeholders and local water users should actively make decisions and not rely solely on the CALFED agency decision-makers. Mr. Clark generally supported the Strategy and Investigation, and suggested that the economic analysis include the cost of droughts to agriculture and that a future definition of the beneficiary pay principle address equity among water users.

**Other comments and suggestions provided by BDAC members included:**

- The CALFED Program should use the Environmental Water Caucus's blueprint (provided to BDAC earlier) to guide the Integrated Storage Investigation.
- Agreement with Mr. Clark that the recent court decision on the 800,000 acre feet of water reserved in the Central Valley Improvement Act (CVPIA) for environmental purposes "(B(2)) water", and negotiations outside the CALFED process have made objective analysis, consideration of water management tools and decision-making difficult within CALFED.
- The Investigation's focus was too narrow and needed to elaborate on water quality, ecosystem restoration and other benefits.
- Water supply reliability tools include stream restoration and expanding water conservation and groundwater storage in Southern California.
- The need to make technology and research information available to interested parties and to use it to make informed decisions on the issues.

***CALFED Bay-Delta Program Action***

Program staff committed to clarifying the role of water quality in the economic evaluation and to agenda discussion of the water supply reliability objectives at the next BDAC meeting.

***BDAC Recommendation***

Chair Madigan received general concurrence from BDAC members on the Program's approach for the Water Management Strategy and Integrated Storage Investigation.

**Public Comment**

Richard Denton (Contra Costa Water District) updated BDAC on the status of the Delta Wetlands Project.

Dennis O'Connor (California Research Bureau) commented that determining the beneficiaries of CALFED programs and actions will be key to developing policy assumptions and expressed a need to begin, anew, discussions on finance.

David McCollom (Olivenhain Metropolitan Water District, San Diego County) expressed concern that the decision-making on water issues is degenerating and is not based on technical information. He supported increased funding for water recycling in Stage 1.

John Winther (Delta Wetlands) explained the status of the Delta Wetlands project, stated that water quality impacts generated in the Delta need further study and that the integrity of Delta levees can be improved by eliminating land subsidence.

Mary Ann Lockhart (Sierra Club) expressed concern that water districts should strive to be more efficient with their water use and that public education programs can help improve water use efficiency.

Dennis Keller (Friant Water Users Authority) commented that changes in agricultural operations and increased urbanization will change the way farmers respond to droughts and require water quality improvements. He expressed concern that there may be inconsistencies between CALFED and state policy regarding treatment of Trinity River issues.

Rogene Reynolds (South Delta farmer) stated that policy makers are torn between meeting demands for water from the environment and urban and agricultural water users.

Jim Verboon (Farmer) expressed pessimism over whether stakeholder concerns can be addressed.

Jim Crettol (Kern County Farm Bureau) mentioned the large contribution Kern County agriculture makes to the economy and thanked BDAC for meeting in Bakersfield.

Dennis Fox (concerned citizen) stressed the need for urban and rural water conservation efforts and for criteria or guidelines for making decisions on offstream storage facilities.

Nick Di Croce (California Trout) requested that CALFED expand the Ecosystem Restoration geographic scope to the Trinity River.

***CALFED Bay-Delta Program Action***

Mr. Ritchie agreed to provide a response to Mr. Di Croce's request.

**Review Work Group Progress on Governance Issues (BDAC members Hap Dunning and EZE Burts)**

After lunch, Mr. Dunning and Eugenia Laychak (BDAC Coordinator) reviewed the material in the meeting packet and provided an update on the progress made by the Work Group on defining the functions of and analyzing the options for an overall governance entity and an ecosystem restoration entity.

***Discussion***

Chair Madigan, EZE Burts (Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce) and David Cottingham (Federal Agency Representative) suggested that the relationship between the Ecosystem Restoration and overall CALFED governing entities be clearly defined in partnership with Congress. The CALFED Program is on the cutting edge and BDAC should not be afraid of proposing a new structure, if needed, and working with others to bring it about.

Mr. Hildebrand, Mr. Buck and Chair Madigan discussed oversight functions and future responsibilities of the Ecosystem Restoration and Governance Work Groups.

Mr. Raab, Mr. Dunning, and Chair Madigan discussed enforcement of policies. It was suggested that all programs need adequate enforcement, funding and clear policies to meet the objectives of the Program.

Ms. Selkirk, Mr. Dunning and Mr. Pyle commented that an interim governing process or structure may be needed while legislation is pursued.

***BDAC Recommendation***

Following up on a suggestion from Mr. Dunning, BDAC concurred that a new principle calling for state and federal parity be included in the Governance Plan.

**Review and Concurrence on CALFED Bay-Delta Program Approach for the Proposed Stage One Actions and Preliminary Cost Estimates (Assistant Director Stein Buer)**

Stein Buer reviewed the materials in the packet handed out at the meeting.

***Discussion***

Mr. Dunning and Mr. Pyle discussed with Mr. Buer governance and budget issues.

Mr. Izmirian and Mr. Buck questioned Mr. Buer on the actions related to increasing water flows in rivers and streams (#55, #93, #94 in "Table 1 Draft Early Implementation Bundles & Cost Estimates" handed out at the meeting).

Mr. Hildebrand, Ms Notthoff, Chair Madigan, Mr. Cottingham and Mr. Buer discussed at length actions #4, #5, and #52. Objections to each of these actions were raised.

Mr. Buck and Mr. Hildebrand discussed water quality related issues with Mr. Buer. A comment was made that the water quality actions had an ecosystem restoration focus, were costly and promised little improvement of drinking water quality. A suggestion for action #101 was to delete the reference to the California Department of Water Resources as the implementing agency.

Mr. Meacher, Ms. Spivy-Weber, Ms. Notthoff and Mr. Buer further discussed watershed related changes to action #66. For actions #60 through 68, it was recommended that the language be consistent with language in the Integrated Storage Investigation and Ecosystem Restoration Plan.

### ***BDAC Recommendation***

Chair Madigan asked the Council for a motion to concur with the presented approach for the draft early implementation bundles and cost estimates. Mr. Pyle made the motion and Mr. Burts provided the second. BDAC members Hildebrand, Notthoff and Raab objected to the motion.

### **Public Comment**

Brenda Southwick (California Farm Bureau) raised the issue of coordinating CALFED agency actions, such as those from the State Water Resources Control Board and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards with CALFED policies and actions.

Dennis Fox (representing Earlimart/White River CRIMP) stated that recent floods have highlighted the need to manage flood flows and use them to the best advantage of the system and environment.

Water Yep (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) explained that the Corps of Engineers is working with the CRIMP (mentioned above) to address the flood related issues mentioned by Mr. Fox.

Chair Madigan adjourned the meeting at about 3:00 pm.