



## **BDAC Watershed Work Group**

In April 1998, the CALFED Bay-Delta Program held two watershed stakeholder meetings at which they received strong interest by many wanting to participate on a Watershed Work Group. Due to the strong interest, a Bay-Delta Advisory Council (BDAC) Watershed Work Group (Work Group) was formed to better coordinate CALFED's Watershed Program planning efforts. The Work Group is co-chaired by BDAC member, Robert Meacher (Plumas County Supervisor/Regional Council for Rural Counties) and Martha Davis (Californian's and the Land). Monthly meetings are held and are open to all.

The first Work Group meeting took place on August 19, 1998. Since then, 234 individuals with a wide array of interests have participated in the Work Group meetings (see attached list of Work Group meeting participants). The formation and interaction of the Work Group has been extremely beneficial in the Watershed Program's development, and will continue to be during the Program's implementation. Other benefits and achievements of the Work Group include the following:

- The meetings provide an opportunity for Work Group participants to review and comment on Watershed Program documents. For example, the Work Group was instrumental in forming the goals, objectives, and Stage I actions for the Watershed Program.
- A sub-committee was formed in April 1999 to review and provide comments on Assembly Bill 730 - Watershed Protection (AB 730), sponsored by Assembly Member Dickerson. In July 1999, the committee, working with Dickerson's aide, Steve Fitch, presented a set of draft concepts for AB730 to other members of the Work Group for comments. They later turned their efforts over to Assembly Member Dickerson for consideration.
- Another sub-committee of Work Group participants was formed in August 1999 to team with agency representatives and Watershed Program staff to help develop a decision-making process and first year set of priorities for the Watershed Program.
- The Work Group meetings provide a forum for diverse stakeholders to voice their opinions and concerns. Attendees of the meetings have direct interaction with the Watershed Program's staff and Interagency Watershed Advisory Team (IWAT).

- The Work Group meetings have formed an invaluable network of communication for individuals who work or live in the watershed of the CALFED Program. The more than 200 individuals who participate in the Work Group meetings have learned from the successes and failures of others, and have created better working relationships with other watersheds and agency representatives.

At the present time, it is anticipated that the Work Group will continue as the primary source of advise and guidance to BDAC and CALFED on the subjects of watershed management in general, and specifically, the implementation of CALFED's Watershed Program.