

CALFED BAY-DELTA WATERSHED PROGRAM

BDAC Watershed Work Group Meeting Summary

The Bay-Delta Advisory Council (BDAC) Watershed Work Group met on August 20, 1999, in Sacramento. The BDAC Watershed Work Group (Work Group) was created to address the public's request to have more participation in the CALFED Watershed Program (Watershed Program). The Work Group provides a forum for stakeholders covering a broad geographic area and wide array of interests. Attendees of the Work Group meetings have direct interaction with the Watershed Program's Interagency Watershed Advisory Team (IWAT) and an opportunity to review and comment on Watershed Program draft documents. In addition, the Work Group may provide input to the BDAC on issues related to the Watershed Program.

Introductions

The meeting began with introductions of the meeting participants. See attached list of attendees.

Comments on the EIS/EIR and Appendices

John Lowrie (Watershed Program Manager) presented a status report on the Watershed Program Plan (Plan) schedule. The plan was released in June as an appendix to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR (EIS/EIR). However, some components of the Watershed Program, such as governance and finance, are not included in the plan, but in another appendix entitled Implementation Plan. The Watershed Program governance section is discussed on pp. 70 - 73, and the finance section on pp. 129 - 134. Copies of these sections were distributed to the meeting attendees. Mr. Lowrie explained that CALFED is currently taking written comments on all Program documents. The public comment period closes September 23, 1999. In addition, 15 public hearings have been scheduled throughout the state to further solicit comments. The hearings began August 18, and will continue through September 22. The Watershed Program will consider all comments (both from the previous and current comment periods) when preparing the final Watershed Program Plan due out in April 2000.

Concerns were raised by a number of meeting participants regarding the difficulty in reviewing the documents via the CALFED web page and/or cd-rom. Also, that it is taking an inordinate amount of time to obtain hard copies of the documents. It was suggested that the formal response process be followed to ensure that CALFED recognizes these concerns. Written comments should be sent to:

CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814



*Watershed Program
BDAC Watershed Work Group Meeting
August 20, 1999*

Attention: Rick Breitenbach

Discussion:

A meeting participant asked who will sign the Record of Decision (ROD)? Mr. Lowrie responded that the directors of the CALFED lead agencies will sign. The ROD is expected to be signed in late June 2000.

A concern was raised regarding the lack of detail in the Finance Plan. Some meeting attendees felt that an insufficient amount of information has been provided to the public making it difficult to respond to. It was suggested that if it is truly incomplete then CALFED should have to distribute a revised draft for additional comments. Dennis Bowker (Napa County RCD/Watershed Program Team) recommended reviewing the finance options laid out on p. 134 of the Implementation Plan.

Another concern was expressed regarding the proposed governance structure. Usually the two processes of decision-making and oversight are performed by separate bodies. However, CALFED is proposing that the Policy Group act as both decision makers and oversight committee. This set-up could cause some conflict particularly with the implementation of the Watershed Program. The question of the source of appeal is also a concern. Another meeting participant commented that the proposed governance structure appears to be agency-driven. Mr. Lowrie reminded the group that much of the governance discussion as illustrated in the Implementation Plan is focused on the interim period versus long-term. The interim is the period of time between the signing of the ROD and the establishment of a mechanism to govern the whole program. The interim is expected to last approximately 2 -3 years (JOHN, IS THAT CORRECT?). To date, the process has largely been agency driven so that is what is reflected in the proposed governance structure for the interim period.

A meeting attendee commented that the sheer bulk of the CALFED documents were a great frustration to many groups trying to review the documents and provide comments. All of the documents could be streamlined. Ms. Laychak reminded everyone that the Revised Phase II Report is a good document to refer to. It provides a summary of all of the programs and proposed alternatives. It also describes the Stage 1 actions (first seven years of implementation) and Stage 1a actions (first two years of implementation) for each program.

Other comments from the Work Group discussed CALFED's lack of addressing population growth; the frustration many local groups feel with the last round of Category III funding; and where CALFED would come up with non-public funds. In addition, Mr. Bowker reminded everyone that CALFED needs to adaptively manage the program itself, not just projects.

Watershed Program Implementation

Mr. Lowrie explained that the Watershed Program may begin to see funding at the beginning of fiscal year 2000 which begins October 1999. In preparation of this potential funding, a decision making process and a set of priorities needs to be established by October or November 1999. Mr. Lowrie proposed that a sub-committee be formed to help with the development of these tasks. The committee would consist of IWAT members and Work Group participants. A sign-up sheet was distributed for Work Group members to volunteer. There was concern that many individuals would be too busy to actively participate until the comment period was over. Also, that many individuals would have a conflict of interest. Mr. Lowrie stated that much of the work could be done via e-mail. He also explained that although potential conflicts of interests are a concern, assisting with the development of these initial tasks would not cause a conflict. Mr. Lowrie will notify those individuals who volunteered to provide them with additional information.

Mr. Lowrie briefly discussed the hand-out illustrating the draft decision making process for the Watershed Program. Six steps are proposed:

1. Set priorities. A description of what the Watershed Program will be focusing on, particularly in the interim, is needed. Many possibilities have already been described in the Watershed Program Plan as desired outcomes.
2. Establish selection criteria. A concise set of criteria needs to be established. The criteria will be used to select projects.
3. Solicit pre-proposals. This step will entail soliciting pre-proposals - concepts for possible watershed projects. A number of methods could be used to solicit proposals including interactive workshops, request for proposals (RFP), etc.
4. Select pre-proposals. Assistance teams would be established to help make an initial recommendation of proposals. The teams would also refer those proposals that are not well suited for the Watershed Program to other funding sources.
5. Solicit complete proposals. With support from an assistance team, local groups will refine their proposals as needed and turn them in to CALFED.
6. Select projects/referral to other funding sources. Projects will be selected for funding, others will be referred to other funding sources.

Planning for the September BDAC Meeting

Eugenia Laychak (CCPDR/CALFED) provided some background information on BDAC and the meeting format. BDAC was formed in 1995 as an official advisory group to CALFED. Members of BDAC hold public meetings approximately every six weeks. The next BDAC meeting will be held in Red Bluff on September 16 and 17. A tour of Battle Creek is scheduled for the 16th, business will be conducted all day on the 17th with watershed management as a main agenda item.

As discussed at the last Work Group meeting, Ms. Laychak informed the group that 1 hour was set aside in the morning of the 17th for a Work Group presentation. Ms. Laychak suggested limiting the presentation to 30 minutes in order to provide ample time for discussion. She recommended that the presentation begin with a report from the Work Group co-chairs, Martha Davis (Sierra Nevada Alliance/Californians and the Land) and Robert Meacher (BDAC/Regional Council for Rural Counties). The Work Group was formed approximately one year ago so a progress report would be timely. As suggested at the last Work Group meeting, the second half of the presentation will be given by various members of the Work Group. It was proposed that approximately 7 individuals, each from a different geographic regions, give a 2-minute presentation. The presentations would discuss different watersheds, but all have the same common themes. It was strongly recommended that the presentations emphasize success stories, not just problems.

Some Work Group members were interested in posting posters at the BDAC meeting. Ms. Laychak suggested coordinating poster sessions with Valerie Justice, Regional Council for Rural Counties, at 916/448-4806.

Restoration Coordination Program

Rebecca Fawver (CALFED Bay-Delta Program) was present to give an overview of the CALFED Restoration Coordination Program. To date, 240 projects have been funded costing approximately \$240 million. During the last round of funding in April 1999, CALFED received 226 proposals; 33 proposals were approved for funding at a cost of \$18.7 million. It is anticipated that CALFED may receive \$30 to \$45 million for ecosystem restoration project for fiscal year (FY) 2000. It is expected that recommendations for the FY 2000 ecosystem restoration projects will be made, in part, by October 1999.

Ms. Fawver explained that priorities will be set each year. This process will include public, stakeholder, and agency input; policy decisions; CALFED solution principles; and science, engineering or other technical knowledge. Priorities will be defined in the first quarter of the fiscal year (October - December). Proposals based on the annual priorities will be solicited in January. The selection process will occur sometime that summer. Ms. Fawver explained that the proposals will be reviewed to ensure that they meet the minimum requirements, if not they will be disqualified. A proposal review will then take place by CALFED staff and a science panel. Results of the review will be given to the Ecosystem Roundtable Subgroup and agency liaisons, and then to the Ecosystem Roundtable itself. The Roundtable will then refer their recommendations to BDAC who will pass them on to the Policy Group.

The Ecosystem Restoration Program is conducting a FY 2000 Priority Setting Public Workshop on Tuesday, August 31, at 9:00 a.m. at 714 P Street Auditorium, Sacramento, to solicit comments on FY 2000 priorities.

Watershed Legislation and Other Watershed Updates

Laurel Ames announced that AB730 (Watershed Protection), sponsored by Assembly Member Dickerson, will be released on September 10, 1999, for public comment. The legislation will be posted on Assembly Member Dickerson's website. A copy will be e-mailed to the Work Group members who have given Watershed Program staff their e-mail address.

Julie Tupper (U.S. Forest Service/IWAT) announced that a series of public meetings are scheduled for the Upper Yuba River Studies Program. The group's purpose statement is "to determine if introduction of wild chinook salmon and steel head to the Upper Yuba River watershed is biologically, environmentally, and socio-economically feasible over the long-term." The meetings are scheduled for September 7 (Olivehurst), September 8 (Rocklin), September 9 (Nevada City), September 14 (Oakland), and September 16 (Yuba City). Please contact CALFED directly for further information - 916/657-2666.

Planning for September Watershed Work Group Meeting

Due to the conflict with the BDAC meeting in September, the next Watershed Work Group meeting was postponed until October. However, the Public Officials for Environmental Reform (POWER) is holding a conference on the typical day for Work Group meetings - the third Friday of the month. Work Group members discussed meeting on a day other than Friday. The result was that Wednesdays and Fridays are the best days for most folks, Friday being the preference. The next Work Group meeting will be held on **Friday, October 1, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** in Sacramento. Work Group members announced that they would like to discuss the following topics at the next meeting:

- Watershed legislation (AB 730) update;
- Report from the decision making process sub-committee;
- Comments to the Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR; and
- Report back from the 9/1/99 Watershed Management Council forum.

Meeting Wrap-up

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Name	Affiliation
Ames, Laurel	Sierra Nevada Alliance
Barris, Lynn	Friends of the River
Bolland, Dave	Association of California Water Users
Bowker, Dennis	Napa County RCD/Watershed Program Team 1
Clamurro, Lori	Delta Protection Commission
Connelly, John	Orland Water Users Association
Cornelius, Jim	Calaveras County Water District
Crooks, Bill	City of Sacramento
Davis, Martha	Sierra Nevada Alliance/Californians and the Land
Denzler, Sara	California Department of Water Resources
Drake, Nettie	Panoche/Silver Creek CRMP
Fawver, Rebecca	CALFED Bay-Delta Program
Garland, Judith	East Bay Municipal Utilities District
Giacomini, Pam	Hat Creek
Gordon, Nina	California Resources Agency/CCC
Harthorn, Allen	Butte Creek
Heiman, Dennis	Regional Water Quality Control Board/IWAT
Keller, Mary	Sutter County
Knecht, Mary Lee	Jones & Stokes Associates/Watershed Program Team
Laychak, Eugenia	California Center for Public Dispute Resolution/CALFED
Lovato Niles, Cheryl	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Lowrie, John	CALFED Watershed Program/NRCS
Mar, David	Westlands Water District
Murphy, Vicki	Family Water Alliance/Cache Creek
Nakamura, Gary	Shasta Tehama Bioregional Council
Nawrath, Steve	Bitterroot Restoration
Nelson, Earl	Western Area Power Administration
Newlin, Vickie	Butte County
Nozuki, Bob	California Department of Water Resources
Parkin, Ann Marie	Metropolitan Water District
Prisament, Morty	County of Lake - Water Resources Division
Pye, Katy	Yolo County Resource Conservation District
Reeves, Chris	Bureau of Indian Affairs/IWAT
Rentz, Mark	California Forestry Association
Sime, Fraser	California Department of Water Resources
Standish-Lee, Peter	URS Greiner-Woodward Clyde
Toline, Anna	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Troyan, Jerry	Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District
Tupper, Julie	U.S. Forest Service/IWAT

Name	Affiliation
Werder, Carl	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Wessman, George	Hydro Geologic, Inc.
Wills, Leah	Plumas Corporation
Wollan, Otis	American River Watershed/Placer County Water Agency
Zirkle, Olen	Ducks Unlimited