

**CALFED Ecosystem Roundtable
Meeting Notes for August 10, 1999**

Roundtable members (or their alternates) and liaisons present:

Gary Bobker (The Bay Institute)
Amy Fowler (SCVWD)
Greg Gartrell (CCWD)
Walt Hoye (MWD)
Dan Keppen (NCWA)
Cynthia Koehler (Save the Bay)

Hari Modi (NCPA)
Jason Peltier (CVPWA)
Tom Zuckerman (CDWA)
Perry Herrgesell (DFG)
Susan Ramos (BOR)
Karen Schwinn (EPA)

Restoration Coordinator's Update

Wendy Halverson Martin highlighted the Liberty Island project amendment that was discussed at the July 22 Amendments Subcommittee meeting. The Subcommittee recommended setting aside up to \$600,000 for operations and maintenance of Liberty Island, if needed, in the interim between when Trust for Public Lands holds the property and when the Fish and Wildlife Service takes ownership. One member still voiced a concern about NEPA not being complete prior to the acquisition. NEPA for the project is in process and expected to be complete this fall. Wendy also discussed the upcoming August 31, 1999 priority setting workshop, the need to provide comments on draft language for changes to the PSP, and the need for a future agenda item to discuss conflict of interest for the Ecosystem Roundtable.

Discussion of FY 2000 Priority Setting Process

Narrative information and copies of overheads were distributed at the meeting which described the FY 2000 Priority Setting Process and revised annual decision making process for future project selection. Priorities for FY 2000 are under development for making decisions on projects with money expected to be appropriated in October of this year under the Federal Bay-Delta Act. It is expected CALFED may receive \$30 - \$45 million for ecosystem restoration projects. Remaining proposals from the last solicitation will be considered for funding this fall. A public workshop to discuss these priorities will be held August 31.

A revised annual decision-making process was described which incorporates changes based on: 1) the transition from early implementation to Stage I implementation which involves, 2) the program's transition to more focused implementation of the Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) and 3) comments received by stakeholders and others to make the process more public and transparent. This process will begin in October of this year with developing priorities for FY 2001. After development of priorities, it is expected that a solicitation will be distributed in late January of 2000 with proposals due in May. Project review and selection will occur between May and October with decisions for projects being made in October of 2000 for FY 2001. Contract award is targeted for completion by January 2000 for FY 2000 funds.

The Roundtable discussed the new process asking about the status of the ERP, the link of this program to other CALFED program elements, and identifying the need to include performance standards. They suggested a subsequent discussion on how monitoring and reporting fits into this process. One member suggested that priority setting be extending out over several years instead of on an annual basis.

There was a reiteration that the annual priority setting process needs to be well defined, transparent and scientifically sound. There was also an opinion that the synergy resulting from the current integration process should be retained in any revised process. The new process also needs to be efficient and fair resulting in the achievement of program performance objectives. The discussion of directed programs revealed an interest in the amount of money allocated to these activities and the manner in which these decisions are made.

The public was asked to comment on this part of the agenda. One person asked how this process will be able to react to events such as the listing of a species. Another person was interested in a process which also elucidates why certain projects are not funded.

Long-Term Environmental Water Acquisition Framework

Dick Daniel passed out a revised version of a Long-Term Environmental Water Acquisition framework. The purpose of the Environmental Water Program (EWP) is to meet the shortfall between existing instream flow and Delta outflow provisions and those needs identified in the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan. The Program is also established to provide for the needs and tools necessary to support the Environmental Water Account (EWA). A first draft was distributed at the July 22 Issues Subcommittee meeting for initial comment and discussion. Roundtable members suggested that this strategy be integrated with other water acquisition programs such as CVPIA. They also requested adding discussion of potential third party impacts. Additional comments should be directed to Dick Daniel at ddaniel@water.ca.gov.

Public Comment

There was no other public comment on topics not listed on the agenda.