

**CALFED Ecosystem Roundtable
Meeting Notes for September 14, 1999**

Roundtable members (or their alternates) and liaisons present:

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| Gary Bobker (The Bay Institute) | John Mills (RCRC) via phone |
| Amy Fowler (SCVWD) | Hari Modi (NCPA) |
| Dan Fults (Friant Water Users) | Jason Peltier (CVPWA) |
| Bill Gaines (CWA) | David Yardas (EDF) |
| Greg Gartrell (CCWD) | Tom Zuckerman (CDWA) |
| Walt Hoye (MWD) | Perry Herrgesell (DFG) |
| Dan Keppen (NCWA) | Patrick Leonard (FWS) |
| Laura King (SLDMWA) | Susan Ramos (BOR) |
| Cynthia Koehler (Save the Bay) | Carolyn Yale (EPA) |
| Doug Lovell (CA Sportfishing Protection Alliance) | |

Announcements

Jason Peltier announced that there will be an all day CVPIA Restoration Fund Roundtable meeting on October 7 at the Radisson Hotel in Edgewater A (through the main entrance). The morning will consist of "Restoration Fund 101" which explains the Restoration Fund and how it is allocated. The afternoon will be presentations by CVPIA Program Managers which will discuss 1999 accomplishments and FY2000 Annual Work Plans.

Restoration Coordinator's Update

Wendy Halverson Martin noted that the Roundtable agency liaisons will be increasing their role in exchange of information between the Roundtable and Policy Group. An Ecosystem Roundtable report will become a standing agenda item at all Bay Delta Advisory Committee and Policy Group meetings. She also mentioned the recent listing decisions made by the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding spring-run salmon. The spring-run was listed as threatened in the Central Valley evolutionarily significant unit (ESU) which may have implications for the CALFED program.

Discussion of FY 2000 Implementation Plan

Wendy Halverson Martin discussed the FY2000 Implementation Plan and how comments made by the public and Roundtable were addressed. Terry Mills of the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program explained the scientific connection between the Implementation Plan and the ERP. The Roundtable suggested that the FY2000 Implementation Plan and any 1999 proposals which relate to them should be reviewed by a Science Panel prior to the next Roundtable meeting. The Science Panel should examine projects in relation to both the 1999 and 2000 priorities and alternatives above the amount of money available should be recommended. The requested that the results of the Science Panel meeting be provided to the Issues Subcommittee.

Additional 1999 Watershed Projects

Roundtable members were reminded of the Conflict of Interest protocols and were asked to make any declarations prior to discussing the watershed projects. No conflicts were declared. Because a small number of watershed projects were funded in the last funding round, the

CALFED Policy Group requested that additional watershed projects be identified from the 1999 proposal solicitation. Wendy Halverson Martin presented nine watershed projects totaling approximately 2 million dollars.

Some Roundtable members expressed frustration that the Policy Group directed these projects to be selected without following the outlined process. They asked for additional details on how these projects were selected and suggested that these projects be subject to the same review process as the FY2000 Implementation Plan and projects for FY2000.

Public Comment

A member of the Yolo County Resource Conservation District commented that agricultural issues need to be an integral part of our program.

A member of the Cache Creek Conservancy voiced support for the non-native invasive species program, noting that non-native species need to be dealt with prior to spending a lot of money on restoration activities.

A project proponent commented on the importance of his project regarding a genetic plan for salmon which was identified as a focused action in the last Proposal Solicitation Package.

A representative from CSU Chico commented that the recent fires in the Chico area have altered the nature of watershed projects in those upper watersheds. It was noted that the effects of those fires are of interest to the program.

**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 the program's transition to more focused implementation of the Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) and 2) 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 on the agenda.