

BDAC Meeting Summary

Draft
BAY-DELTA ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING SUMMARY
October 28, 1999
Veterans Memorial Center, Davis, CA

Major Outcomes

- FY 2000 Priorities - BDAC stressed the need to develop criteria for establishing priorities and allocating funds between CALFED programs. BDAC expressed its wishes to begin discussions on financing the CALFED program. Individual members also suggested several revisions to the priorities.
- Ecosystem Restoration Program - FY 1999 - BDAC, in general, recommended to the CALFED Policy Group that the eight watershed projects recommended by the interim Science Review Board be funded. Three BDAC members objected to the recommendation citing an alternative proposal by agricultural and urban representatives on the Ecosystem Roundtable.

FY 2000 - BDAC recommended that the Ecosystem Roundtable develop a consensus proposal at its November meeting and forward that Proposal to the CALFED Policy Group.

- Governance - BDAC supported the concept of creating a new CALFED oversight commission. BDAC did not reach agreement on several outstanding issues, including the need for a separate entity to manage the Ecosystem Restoration program, role of tribal nations on the proposed oversight commission, how the CALFED agencies will coordinate with each other and the oversight commission and exercise their independent authorities, and administration of the environmental water account.

Welcome and Chair's Report (Vice Chair Sunne McPeak)

Vice Chair Sunne McPeak opened the meeting at 9:15 am and clarified that the CALFED agencies will need a recommendation on the preferred alternative by March 7, 2000 to meet the current schedule. She also stated that the CALFED Policy Group will meet in Sacramento on November 17 and reviewed with BDAC the members who expressed interest in attending the meeting.

BDAC member Alex Hildebrand asked that BDAC discuss the Through Delta conveyance alternative prior to developing the BDAC recommendation on the preferred alternative.

Executive Director's Report (Acting Executive Director Steve Ritchie)

Acting Executive Director Steve Ritchie provided highlights: release of the Trinity River EIS, and results of a meeting with Senator Feinstein.

- Complete discussions on determining whether funds set aside for ecosystem restoration will be used to mitigate for environmental impacts caused by other CALFED actions.
- Develop rules or guidelines for expending the funds allocated for the FY 2000 operations contingency.
- Develop options for integrating other related funding sources, such as CVPIA, into CALFED budgets.

Public Comment

Mary Ann Dickenson (California Urban Water Conservation Council) suggested that measurable goals needed to be identified. That task may show that \$2 million for water conservation and recycling planning and projects in the proposed funding option for FY 2000 is not enough. She offered Council funds as a source of matching funds. Vice Chair McPeak asked the Council to deliberate on the issues raised by BDAC and to report back at BDAC's December 14, 1999 meeting.

Gary Bobker (The Bay Institute) asked for more funding for water conservation and recycling and that funding options for FY 2000 and later years address all water management strategy tools.

Ecosystem Restoration Implementation (Mary Scoonover, Wendy Halverson-Martin, Gary Bobker)

Mary Scoonover (Deputy Attorney General) reviewed the conflict of interest rules. BDAC member Judith Redmond recused herself from discussion and any decision-making.

Wendy Halverson Martin (CALFED staff) reviewed the current rate of expenditures and the materials in the BDAC packet. She emphasized the need to make progress on funding decisions for FY 2000, so that funds can be expended during the FY 2000 fiscal year and the project selection process for FY 2001 can begin. Ms. Halverson Martin summarized the Ecosystem Roundtable actions and outstanding issues. She clarified that the interim science panel which reviewed the projects was a technical fact-finding group advisory to the CALFED program.

Gary Bobker (Ecosystem Roundtable Co-Chair) explained that the Roundtable was uncomfortable with the project selection process used for the FY 2000 projects. The group expected to follow the process and priorities established in the 1999 project solicitation package. Mr. Bobker stated the Roundtable issues with the FY 2000 funding proposal were the need for more funding for acquiring environmental water and fish screens, and questioning the need for ecosystem restoration projects in the South Delta area.

BDAC Recommendation

BDAC members expressed general concurrence with the concept of creating a new state and federal CALFED commission. Some support is contingent on whether a separate new entity will manage the ecosystem restoration program.

Water Management Development Team Progress Report (Steve Macauley)

Steve Macauley, Department of Water Resources Deputy Director, reviewed the questions the Development Team is trying to address, and informed BDAC on the Team's purpose and tasks.

Discussion

Issues and questions discussed by BDAC members, CALFED staff and agency representatives:

- The goals and indicators of success were explained. The goal for the Team is to determine ways to shrink unmet demand, have improved water supply and no degradation in water quality during Stage 1. Water development measures for Stage 1 are greater use of groundwater storage and increased conjunctive use, water transfers, crop shifting, improved conveyance through the South Delta, and flexing the export/inflow ratio. The Team is to determine what measures can be developed and used within Stage 1, estimate their performance, and determine how their use affects water supply reliability. This short term effort is not factoring in the effects of groundwater overdraft, or changes in contracts and other economic or market based measures which have not occurred. It also is not addressing future (post Stage 1) water conservation and recycling, water transfer or water quality measures.
- Long term efforts on developing and implementing the water management strategy will focus on developing long term water supply reliability goals, conducting the economic valuation of water management measures and developing the tools that are not now available.
- The question of how this effort relates to establishment of an environmental baseline or achieving an environmental restoration goal was raised. The team is assuming, for the purposes of assessing the measures, the requirements in the CVPIA, section 3406 b(2), as interpreted by the Department of Interior, and the Bay-Delta Accord.
- Discussion is difficult on this issue because it is easy to confuse inputs or tools with outputs. The inputs and outputs need to be clearly articulated.
- The issue of whether use of existing assets will increase water supply was raised. It was suggested that operating the system differently may yield more water.

Public Comment

Marna Miller (private citizen) raised concerns that Southern California will use up the available water supply.

Ms. King stated that the Development Team meetings are not going well and stakeholders are distressed that scenarios which assume water user and environmental community expected outcomes will not be modeled.

The meeting was adjourn at 4:50 PM.