

**CALFED Ecosystem Roundtable
Issues Subcommittee Meeting
Meeting Notes for June 22, 2000**

Roundtable Members (or their alternates) and Agency Liaisons present:

Gary Bobker (TBI)
Walt Hoye (MWD)
Dan Fults (SJRGGA)
Cynthia Patton (NHI)
Dave Briggs for Greg Gartrell (CCWD) via phone
Nan Yoder (BOR)
Tim Ramirez (Resources Agency)

Environmental Water Program

Craig Stevenson of Jones and Stokes described the status of work for the Environmental Water Program (EWP) that is being developed by CALFED and CVPIA. Activities include organizing a Steering Committee, developing a paper on lessons learned with large-scale water acquisitions, coordination among all CALFED and CVPIA water acquisition programs, and developing the best approach for implementation of the EWP. A handout that is included in this packet describes status of work to date.

Members of Steering Committee to advise this program include Dan Fults of the San Joaquin River Group Authority, Gary Bobker of The Bay Institute, David Yargas/Dan Suyeyasu of Environmental Defense, Martha Guzman of United Farm Workers, and Dan Keppen of the Northern California Water Association. Other potential members include Jason Peltier of the Central Valley Project Water Users Association and a representative of an urban water district. Any policy issues that are identified by the Steering Committee will be sent through the entire Roundtable. It was suggested that a representative from the Farm Bureau be considered. It was also suggested that the Steering Committee should be used as advisors for all CALFED and CVPIA water acquisition programs. The first meeting of the Steering Committee is expected to be scheduled in the next couple weeks.

On developing the best approach for implementation of the EWP, the Subcommittee discussed Alternative 3 at length. Alternative 3 makes stakeholder involvement, science and adaptive management the center of EWP implementation. The Subcommittee widely supported this approach. One member highlighted the importance of local partnerships once projects are underway. There was also a comment on ensuring we have sufficient administrative support for the program.

Restoration Reserve Policy

Wendy Halverson Martin distributed and described a draft Revised Policy for the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program Restoration Reserve Fund. As drafted currently, the Restoration Reserve purpose is to primarily fund project amendments and secondarily to fund emergency or time-sensitive projects. To date, it has not been used for either purpose since other unallocated funds have been available.

The Subcommittee discussed the current points of agreement and disagreement in regard to use of the Restoration Reserve. Most of the discussion centered on the main point of disagreement which is whether scientific and technical review should be conducted for amendments to projects which are currently under contract. Walt Hoyer felt strongly that it is the responsibility of the contract administrator to determine whether or not an amendment is feasible. He felt additional technical review would be adding another layer onto the process and that the responsibility for the contract administration should not be diffused. Other contract administrators noted that they would like to have the option for technical review if they request it. Others pointed out that it is important to re-evaluate a project, especially if there is a change in scope or change in footprint of the project. One person noted the importance of notifying local people of such changes. After discussing several potential options, the group was unable to reach an agreement.

Project Selection Process

Rebecca Fawver described the status of the project selection process for proposals received under the Ecosystem Restoration Program 2001 Proposal Solicitation. A description of the process was emailed and handed out to Roundtable members. Proposals have been posted on the CALFED website. The proposals are currently undergoing technical review. Funding recommendations are expected in October of this year. One member requested being informed earlier in the process.