

Ecosystem Governance Discussion Outline

February 24, 1999

Mission for ecosystem governance structure

- Implement the ecosystem restoration program and achieve the ecosystem restoration performance objectives

Principles that guide implementation (BDAC Workgroup 10/98):

- Implement the program using an adaptive management framework
- Science based--manage based on scientific and biological principles and processes/ incorporate independent science review
- Be proactive in restoring the ecosystem
- Be responsible for meeting the performance standards of the ERP
- Implement the ERP as efficiently as possible
- Integrate stakeholders in decision making process (additional)
- Assume no regulatory functions (additional)

Objectives/Functions:

- Ability to manage a broad and complex program scope
- Implementation of ecosystem program and meeting objectives and performance standards
- Coordination and consolidation of ecosystem restoration activities within the program scope
- Coordinate with overall CALFED entity and with other CALFED programs
- Oversee and direct ecosystem monitoring, research and assessment

Duties/Responsibilities:

- Planning and program development
- Support and conduct science
- Acquire and hold rights to land water and other property by lease purchase or easement
- Manage contracts and grants
- Review water management operations
- Implement the adaptive management framework in an effective and efficient manner
- Conduct or coordinate monitoring, data analysis, data accessibility and publication of the findings
- Administer and coordinate multiple funding sources / prepare program budget

Authority to:

- Acquire and hold rights to land, water and other property
- Obtain and hold regulatory permits and prepare env. documentation
- Enter into contracts/ Employ staff
- Receive funding from public and private sources
- Disburse funds through grants, loans or contracts
- Issue and repay bonds and other forms of indebtedness
- Sue and be sued

Ecosystem Governing Structure Options

- Refinement of existing structure-- rely on existing agencies
- New state /federal agency, conservancy or board
- New state/federal nonprofit or public corporation

Possible Initial Steps in 1999--Assuming need for new entity:

- Pursue state only aspect as soon as possible in this legislative year and continue efforts to formalize federal involvement in future years
- Pursue both state/federal entity and don't let state organization precede federal --results in reliance on existing structure until federal and state legislation is passed