

## **Ecosystem Restoration and Assurances Work Groups Joint Meeting**

### ***Overview of Recent CALFED Staff Work- 10/6/98***

At the 10/1 Management Committee meeting, staff presented several alternatives for CALFED program oversight and management. Based on the information and studies presented by the Assurances and Ecosystem Restoration groups regarding an ERP implementing body, and the duties, responsibilities and abilities of such an entity, four alternatives were developed. These alternatives were driven by four basic management problems with the current CALFED structure:

- 1) CALFED was created to address and prepare a long-range plan. It was not designed as a structure to administer large amounts of funding and grants, to implement projects on demanding schedules, or to interact with stakeholders and local governments in more-formal ways, with resulting legal liabilities.
- 2) CALFED does not exist as a formal line organization. It cannot hire its own staff, determine its own budget, enter into contracts or house its own staff. These are very basic preconditions for administering a multi-million dollar program.
- 3) There is no established decisionmaking protocol. When the program is implemented, there needs to be a clear, unambiguous process for making critical program decisions.
- 4) There is no clear structure or authority for receiving stakeholder input or for their involvement in making decisions. It is unclear whether a successor agency, an array of agencies, or a structure involving stakeholders will make decisions on implementation.

Duties for an implementing entity would need to include:

- Policy formulation;
- Dispute resolution;
- Prioritizing actions;
- Assigning responsibilities for implementation;
- Allocating resources to participating agencies;
- Coordinating actions and fostering communication;
- Reviewing plan compliance, and taking corrective actions if necessary.

Based on these issues, staff presented four alternatives:

1. Retain the existing informal CALFED arrangement, with existing agencies carrying out the CALFED implementation program.
2. Formalize the existing CALFED arrangement through a federal/state Joint Powers Authority (JPA). This would establish a distinct legal entity to implement the program.
3. Establish a new entity to implement the CALFED program, including ownership and operation of facilities.
4. Create a new entity based on the commission model, with a formal role for stakeholder representatives.

There was no consensus from the Management Committee as to the future structure of an implementing authority. There was input from several agencies that major changes should not be sought at this time.

It is important to note that the alternatives discussed above relate to an entity which would administer and implement all aspects of the CALFED program, not just the ERP. The administrative problems noted, however, such as the need to be able to hire staff and enter into contracts, would apply to either an ERP or CALFED overall-program implementation agency.