



Date: November 26, 1997
To: Ecosystem Roundtable Members
From: Cindy Darling and Kate Hansel
Subject: December 4 Meeting Packet

Enclosed is the packet for the *Thursday, December 4* Ecosystem Roundtable meeting to be held in the Resources Building in Room 1131 from 9:30 to 12:30. The previous notice for the meeting listed the wrong day of the week.

Here is a slightly expanded agenda with information on what is included in this packet and what will be covered under each agenda item.

1. Next steps: Workgroup Report - Darling

A. Near-Term Implementation Blueprint/Action Plan/Guidance Document

The workgroup developed additional detail on what would be in a "blueprint" or "guidance document" as well as framing the charge to the revised Integration Panel for their meeting in January. Revised draft material will be available at the meeting for discussion. At the meeting, Roundtable input will be needed on how to revise the Integration Panel and on the following "staff draft" charge to the revised Integration Panel:

Using at least the ERPP, AFRP, and 1997 Implementation Strategy, revise priorities for near-term ecosystem restoration so they are for three years and are based on restoration of natural processes.

B. 1998 Bridge Year Process

The CALFED Policy Group has also provided guidance on process and timing of decisions on FY 98 federal funding. The Policy Group, at their November meeting, clearly indicated they want decisions on the FY 98 funding to be made by February. The guidance from the Policy Group was to have the Integration Panel review the gaps and the previously unfunded proposals from the 1997 process to recommend up to an

CALFED Agencies

California The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

additional \$85 million in projects to be funded. Funding could be allocated through directed programs and grants. This information would be brought to the Roundtable in January for review and input and then brought to the Policy Group.

2. Integration Panel Report - Hansel

A. Ideas for Future Process

We have asked Integration Panel members to provide their evaluation of the 1997 process. We have already received some feedback and are expecting additional comments this week. We will provide a summary of this at the meeting.

3. Restoration Coordination Update - Hansel

A. 1997 Funding Process Expected Decision Dates

Decision memos are being prepared by Secretary Wheeler and Secretary Babbitt. The announcement is being scheduled and is expected sometime in the first two weeks of December.

B. Contract Administration

An update will be provided on contract administration of 1997 proposals.

C. Other Issues

***Special Support Programs:** At the previous meeting, Roundtable advice was sought on expenditure of \$2.3 million from the FY 98 federal funds for CALFED Special Support Programs. The promised expanded description of the Special Support Programs will be provided at the meeting. Previously, one of the programs proposed for inclusion was the development of the HCP. Based on input previously received from Roundtable members, only the Conservation Strategy from the HCP is included in this package.*

***Request for Funding:** Policy Group has asked Brett Walthal from the US Bureau of Reclamation to present a request for \$15 million from the federal FY 98 allocation for a short-term water reserve account. The Policy Group requested that the Roundtable provide their advice on funding of this proposal. A description is attached.*

Minutes from the November 14 Roundtable meeting are enclosed. A memo which lays out how Kate and Cindy are splitting the major areas of responsibility for the program will be available at the meeting to help Roundtable members understand how the program is operating.