

**CALFED Ecosystem Roundtable Meeting Notes  
September 21, 1998**

**Roundtable members (or their representatives) and Liaisons present:**

Gary Bobker (The Bay Institute)  
Steve Evans (FOR)  
Amy Fowler (SCVWD)  
Bill Gaines (CWA)  
Greg Gartrell (CCWD)  
Dan Keppen ( NCWA )  
Laura King (SLDMWA)  
John Mills (RCRC)  
Jason Peltier (CVPWA)  
Tim Quinn (MWD)  
Doug Wallace (EBMUD) via phone  
David Yargas (EDF)  
Tom Zuckerman (CDWA)

Carolyn Yale (USEPA)

Roundtable membership

The group felt there was a need to reach out to those members who have not been attending. It was agreed that the co-chairs would send a letter out to Roundtable members re-inviting fuller participation.

**Future meeting dates:**

Wednesday, **October 28** beginning at 1:00pm  
Friday, **December 11** beginning at 9:30am  
Wednesday, **January 13** beginning at 9:30am

The San Francisco Bay Joint Venture has requested to join the Ecosystem Roundtable. It was suggested that a list of the current membership be sent out in the next Roundtable packet.

Implementation Update

62 projects were approved by the Policy Group. In addition, after further review and coordination, Proposal A1004, Opening up Butte Creek Canyon to Salmon and Steelhead Passage, may be funded; and CALFED has reserved funding for Proposal A1005, Upper Yuba River Salmon and Steelhead Restoration, Study Englebright Decommissioning, for a directed program with coordination with the original applicants, the South Yuba River Citizens League,

as well as with the Yuba County Water Agency, PG&E, and Yuba and Nevada counties.

Policy Issues raised by the Roundtable were forwarded to the Management Team and Policy Group, including cost-sharing guidelines, upper watershed issues, Trinity watershed issues, local involvement, future funding sources for watershed management groups and Suisun Marsh fish screens.

On developing cost-sharing criteria for fish screens, Bill Gaines, Dan Keppen, Tom Zuckerman and Steve Hirsch volunteered to work together to develop a draft (for Management Team meeting October 1).

On the Trinity issue, concern was raised that CALFED has not included Trinity River restoration as part of the long term program thereby limiting short term funding for restoration. Roundtable members requested additional information on this issue.

The upper watershed issue was referred to the Watershed Management Program. It was noted that the Interagency Watershed Advisory Technical Team (IWATT) is working on criteria for participation on local involvement.

CALFED staff is working with UC Davis on mapping all the existing restoration projects. It was noted that this effort should link with the CVPIA wetlands mapping.

Case studies on easement and fee title acquisitions will be a topic of a future meeting.

Proposal I1000, Developing a Methodology to Accurately Simulate the Entrainment of Fish, was approved as part of the package. A report back to Roundtable was requested on why it was approved.

Information for a proposal on opening up 40+ miles of habitat for fish on Battle Creek was distributed. Three goals of the work are to:

1. Develop a biological basis/analysis
2. Identify optimum flow levels
3. Determine the physical layout of watershed

A field trip to Battle Creek will be organized and a briefing at future meetings was requested.

Planning is in process for FY '99 priorities. At the December Roundtable meeting, FY 99 programs and projects, and information on directed programs, reserve funds and continued funding will be presented. It is expected that the proposal package for the next round of funding will be distributed in January with funding decisions potentially in May.

Parts of the ERP Strategic Plan are being used as a basis of future priorities. The plan has 6 goals and identifies twelve key issues as well as adaptive management techniques which will be useful to the 99 planning process. These parts of the plan were discussed. It was also noted that the Core Team (which developed the Strategic Plan) will play a role in reviewing FY 99 priorities, and subsequent proposal packages.

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A draft of the Recommended FY 99 Priorities was included in the Roundtable packet for review. One set of comments were distributed and briefly discussed at the meeting.

One Roundtable member felt it was important to make sure 99 priorities connected back to the broader goals of CALFED and that actions should link back to the water management infrastructure. There was not consensus on these two points. One member pointed out that the point of this priority document was to focus on ecological goals. Actions which meet other CALFED goals, and are consistent with larger CALFED objectives are encouraged.

A couple members requested additional time to make comments. It was decided that a subgroup (consisting of Jason Peltier, Gary Bobker, Bill Gaines and others) could continue the discussion and present recommendations. At the same time, the group felt the planning process should continue to move forward. Additional comments on the Revised Priorities are due to Cindy by COB Friday (Sept 25, 1998).

#### Water Acquisition - Madera Ranch

Brent Wathall of the Bureau of Reclamation presented the basics of the Madera Ranch proposal. The request is for 14.5 million dollars from the water acquisition fund to purchase Madera Ranch for development of a groundwater bank.

Questions were raised on what happens if other money doesn't come through, sources of the water, cost, local support, yield, appropriateness of using water acquisition funds. There was also concern with the urgency of the request and that this proposal was not run through the process.

Some members felt strongly that this project should not be funded from FY 98 funds, though it could be looked at under FY 99, if it goes through the appropriate process.

Additional comments are to be forwarded to Cindy by September 30th.

#### Tracking System Update

The group developing the tracking system met a group in Chico about their concerns. Upon further explanation, the Chico group felt more comfortable with the system. The tracking system will now begin to be implemented.