

CALFED Ecosystem Roundtable Meeting Notes for February 9, 2000

Roundtable members (or their alternates) and liaisons present:

Gary Bobker (The Bay Institute)	David Yargas (EDF) via phone
Steve Evans (Friends of the River)	Tom Zuckerman (CDWA)
Amy Fowler (SCVWD)	
Bill Gaines (CWA)	Perry Herrgesell (DFG)
Greg Gartrell (CCWD)	Patrick Leonard (FWS)
Walt Hoye (MWD)	Susan Ramos (BOR)
Dan Keppen (NCWA)	Carolyn Yale (EPA)
John Mills (RCRC)	
Doug Wallace (EBMUD)	

Restoration Coordinator's Update

A status and trends report on conservation land ownership and land use/cover in the Bay-Delta is being developed. The first public draft will be available in April 2000. Letters of interest about the ERP Environmental Water Program will go out in March 2000. At Dan Keppen's suggestion, David Yargas found an April 6, 1998 draft of Proposed Policy Principles for Environmental Water Acquisitions which is newer than the draft included in the Roundtable packet. Proposed new members of the Ecosystem Roundtable include Terry Erliwine replacing Steve McCauley representing State Water Contractors, and Jim Batege as a representative for the Sierra Nevada Alliance. An internal audit of all state agencies involved in land acquisition has been initiated by the State Auditor. A policy on the Restoration Reserve Funds is being developed and will be presented at the next Roundtable meeting.

Interim Science Board Recommendations for FY 2001 Implementation Plan

Bob Twiss, Chair of the Interim Science Board (ISB), reported on the membership and draft terms of reference for the ISB, and responded to comments and questions from Roundtable members. In general, Roundtable members were very pleased with the ISB membership. Two members felt strongly that there should be a resource economist on the ISB, but there was no consensus in this opinion. Other Roundtable concerns included the importance of ISB independence, that ISB members should be familiar with the EIS/EIR, the role of the ISB in reviewing existing projects, annual spending, and the ERP and Strategic Plan, the role of the ISB in influencing directed actions, and the nature of the interactions between the ISB and ASET (Agency/Stakeholder Ecosystem Team).

After an overview by Wendy Halverson Martin, Ken Cummins, ISB Vice Chair, discussed the FY 2001 Implementation Plan. Ken emphasized the importance of conceptual models and adaptive management, and reviewed the list of twelve uncertainties originally specified in the Strategic Plan and modified by the ISB. Several Roundtable members felt there should be an additional uncertainty of ocean effects on fish populations. The Roundtable concurred with the FY 2001 Implementation Plan.

Discussion of Revised Proposal Solicitation and Project Selection Process

Rebecca Fawver presented the revised proposal solicitation and project selections process and responded to questions. Concerns from Roundtable members and the public included where local input comes into the process, details about the geographic review step, checks and balances with CVPIA, and membership of ASET. Roundtable members suggested potential additions to ASET including representatives from CDFA or other agricultural interest, the Reclamation Board, and waterfowl, wetland and watershed experts.

CALFED/CVPIA Integration

Wendy Halverson Martin reviewed the proposed functional integration of CALFED ERP and CVPIA. The two programs will overlap while remaining distinct. Wendy showed graphics depicting the connections between the two programs and CVPIA linkages with the ERP project selection process. Roundtable members suggested that proposal reviewers be familiar with the CVPIA program and that a list of exact areas of overlap between CVPIA and CALFED be prepared.