

Facilitated Scientific Review For the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan

I. Introduction

The CALFED Bay Delta Program intends to convene a scientific review panel in July 1997 with the objective of bringing forth the best available scientific expertise to evaluate the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan (ERPP). This proposal is in response to a request by the BDAC Ecosystem Workgroup to convene an independent scientific review of the ERPP. CALFED is using the BDAC Ecosystem Workgroup to present this conceptual proposal and solicit public input regarding the structure of the process, the criteria for selection of panel members and the questions to be addressed by the panel and process.

II. Proposed Structure

The proposed structure of the scientific review is as follows:

- Establish a panel of independent scientists. Because of the broad scope of subject matter that the ERPP covers it is possible that subpanels will be created that cover the following topics:
 - (1) landscape ecology
 - (2) physical processes--hydrology, and geomorphology
 - (3) aquatic resources
 - (4) riparian and terrestrial resources
- Technical advisors with expertise in the Bay Delta system would be recruited to assist the panels in their review.
- Over a 3-4 day period the panel (and subpanels) would meet with interested stakeholders, CALFED staff, and other technical experts. An effort would be made to document areas of scientific agreement, disagreement and uncertainty. A portion of the process would have open public participation.
- The panel members will submit a written report with recommendations and a summary of the joint discussions to the Ecosystem Restoration Workgroup for comment and input, and to BDAC for deliberation before final submittal to CALFED.

III. Criteria for Selection of Panelists

Panelists should (1) not be stakeholders in the CALFED process, (2) have advanced degrees and an established record of research and publication in one of the 4 resource topics, and (3) have a track record of providing scientific input into public policy.

IV. Questions to Address to the Panel and Joint Fact Finding Process

CALFED will be developing a list of questions to address to the panels regarding the ERPP. Listed below are a few *examples* of questions that may be asked.

- Is the ERPP focus on ecological processes as the foundation for restoration of ecological health a correct focus?
- Can we use restoration of streamflow, floodplain, watershed and channel forming processes to set measurable targets?
- Is it possible to predict species response to the reestablishment of ecological processes?

V. Time Line

The panel will be established over the next several months and is targeted to meet in July 1997. Recommendations and a summary of the joint discussions, in the form of a report, are expected in early August.