Bay-Delta Program Issues

Conveyance

- Comparison of alternatives
  Have we adequately described how the alternatives perform under the distinguishing criteria? Which alternative performs best according to these criteria?

- Size of Isolated Facility Under Alternative 3
  Should Alternative 3 include an isolated facility with a capacity of 10,000 (± 2,000) cfs, or a broader range?

- Operational criteria
  How should potential changes in operating criteria/standards be described and evaluated?

- Phasing Under Alternative 3
  To what extent is phasing appropriate to define and shape the design and operation of Alternative 3?

Storage

- Level of Detail/Range
  Is the range and level of detail on storage appropriate? How and when will we better define potential sites?

- Portion for Ecosystem Protection
  To what extent should storage be reserved for ecosystem protection?

- Decision Process
  Given that there appears to be no "optimal" level of storage, how will we determine a recommended level?

ERPP

- Conceptual models and indicators
  How are we addressing the issues raised by the scientific review panel, particularly with respect to the need for conceptual models and indicators?

- Stakeholder/agency comments
  How are we addressing the specific comments of the agencies and stakeholders?

- Appropriate Target Levels

- Targets for Striped Bass and American Shad

Water Quality

- Delta water quality
  To what extent do the alternatives affect In-Delta water quality? If negatively, how should it be mitigated?

- Status of Revisions
  What is the status of revisions to this program?

- Performance measures/commitments
  Should the water quality program include performance measures to track attainment of Program goals?

- Peer Review
  Should this program undergo some form of scientific peer review?

- Watershed Management Strategy
  Is the strategy in its current form sufficient for the programmatic draft?

- Role of Land Retirement
  To what extent will land retirement be used to improve water quality?

Water Use Efficiency

- Role of Land Fallowing/Retirement
  Should land retirement or fallowing be used as a water efficiency tool?

- Consistency between state and federal programs
  Should entities wishing to receive CALFED Program benefits be required to submit agricultural conservation plans that satisfy both AB 3616 and CVPIA requirements?

- Performance measures
  Should the Program include some measure of success for the water use efficiency goals?

- Water Transfers
  How will the water transfers program be further developed?

- Technical and Financial Assistance
  To what extent does the Program intend to provide technical and financial assistance?

Levees

- Cost
  What is the estimated cost of this Program element?

- Level of protection
  Should the Delta levees be rehabilitated to PL 99 standards?

- Levee Maintenance
  Should levee maintenance and habitat mitigation requirements be changed?

- Status of Review
  What is the status of agency and stakeholder review of this program?

- Dredging
  What is the status/potential for reuse of dredged materials for Delta levees and ecosystem restoration projects?

Assurances

- Status
  What is the status of the Assurances package?

- Possible need for new entity for ecosystem restoration
  Will the Program recommend the formation of a new entity to implement the ERPP?

- Area of origin
  Will the Program include assurances under the area of origin statutes?

- HCP/ESA Assurances
  Will the Program include an HCP or other ESA assurances?

- Level of Detail
  Will the level of detail be adequate to provide meaningful assurances?

Finance

- Costs
  What are the estimated costs of the Program elements?

- Need agreement on principles
  What principles will be used to determine who pays the costs?

- Financing Plan
  Will the next document include a specific financing plan?

Process Issues

- Nature of document
  Should the document be a draft EIR/EIS? Should it include a preferred alternative?

- Schedule

- Stakeholder concerns
  What are the key stakeholder concerns that should be highlighted in the document? How do we intend to address them?

Other

- Impact of Program elements on agricultural land, prime agricultural land
  How will the impacts on prime agricultural lands be addressed?

- Possible climate change effects
  How will the potential impacts of climate change be addressed?

- Clear integration of Program elements
  Have we adequately described how the Program elements will be integrated?

- Non-severability of Program elements

- Completeness of Impact Analysis