



Memorandum

Date: July 15, 1999
To: Federal/State Small Group
From: Mary Selkirk *mary*
Re: Outcomes from July 13, 1999 Small Group Meeting

Response to Letter from San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority and the State Water Contractors

No response letter yet from federal or state CALFED agencies. Tom Hagler suggested to Kathy Kelly that this letter be looked at by the Ops Group. He volunteered to follow up with Alf Brandt and other federal agency people at the end of the week. Kathy Kelly said she would follow up with Patrick.

Action: Draft language will be ready next week. Draft will include a summary of what the Ops Group can do in response to the letter's request, and other alternatives, including a one-time lifting of USACE pumping restrictions on the state.

South Delta Issues **Bundling Site-specific Environmental Studies**

Stein Buer opened the discussion by asking the Small Group to focus on the big picture with regard to how best to initiate site-specific environmental documentation efforts for the South Delta bundle of actions. Discussion centered on approaches that would ensure balance and linkages across actions. Tom Hagler pointed out that this is not a legal issue, but one of program management. It was suggested that CALFED focus on scheduling and budgeting priorities to look at how to ensure that all types of program actions are moving forward.

Outcome: General agreement that it is logical to move forward with individual project-level documentation, but that certain studies be bundled together, the exact assurance mechanisms for doing so to be developed and agreed upon. Some suggestions included a

CALFED Agencies

California

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

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Geological Survey
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Forest Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service
Western Area Power Administration

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commitment to ongoing internal coordination among CALFED agencies, and stakeholder and legislative scrutiny through the budget and appropriations processes.

Outcome: The group recommended that CALFED move ahead with ERP environmental studies, the comprehensive flood control study and South Delta facilities studies. Patrick Wright suggested combining into a single project the ERP studies and the comprehensive flood control studies, which would entail accelerating the latter.

Follow-up: Patrick will convene a conference call with appropriate people to move ahead on linking the ERP documentation and the ongoing comprehensive flood control study.

Follow-up: Frank Wernette will proceed with project planning/organization for the ERP studies, working with the federal co-lead agencies and Stein Buer. South Delta facilities site-specific environmental documentation will also be allowed to move forward, generally as outlined, but with modified project purposes as noted below.

Follow-up: All agencies at the meeting agreed that they would have their staffs review pp. 4-13 of Stein's proposal, which describes the three site-specific study efforts proposed for immediate undertaking by CALFED. This review to be completed by next week.

Outcome: Mike Spear proposed that CALFED draft a policy statement that would spell out explicitly how the Program intends to ensure linkages of program actions within each bundle.

Follow-up: To be determined.

South Delta Facilities

There was some discussion as to whether CALFED needed to look at alternative intake locations to ensure that a full range of options is considered.

Outcome: No objection to range of alternatives. Small Group suggested that the Project Purposes be generalized to cover a broader range of aquatic resources, not just anadromous fish.

Follow Up: Project purposes statement will be revised with input from SDIT members to reflect Small Group policy direction.

Stockton Dissolved Oxygen Studies

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Action: Small Group agreed that CALFED should explore launching the formal EIS/R process for this part of the South Delta bundle, while the CALFED stakeholder process is getting under way. Stein would follow up with discussions with affected agencies and stakeholders.

Agricultural Drainage Management in the San Joaquin Basin

Patrick Wright requested that CALFED be sure to link up with the CVRWQCB, who are poised to undertake a basin plan.

Follow-up: Stein agreed to initiate discussions with the RWQCB to explore the opportunities for CALFED to work with and enhance ongoing work in this area. Grant Line Canal EIS/R

Action: The Small Group recommended deleting this study from the list.

Follow-up: Done.

Other issues

Action: Mike Spear presented copies of a letter that USFWS proposed to send to Assemblymember Machado regarding the CALFED South Delta plan and its potential effects on South Delta agriculture and water quality. No objections were raised. The letter will be sent.

Next Small Group meeting Tuesday, July 20, 1999.

Tentative agenda:

South Delta improvements

USACE projects in the Central Valley (at Walter Yep's request)