

Notes from July 29 Small Group
(Mary Scoonover & Robin)

(510)
527-4787

1. South Delta

Linking Project Level Environmental Studies

Stein gave an update on projects underway; followed up from comments from last meeting. Rick Soehren and Mary Scoonover are working to develop documents to link individual South Delta actions, and are working developing a policy statement.

ERP

Implementation Plan – Fish & Game is developing staffing, funding requirements
Lead Agency Designations – next week identify potential lead agencies. Soon begin notice of preparation

Tracy Test Fish Facility

Management Agreement - Stein gave overview of proposal and responded to question of level of review as having been work through agency staff, technical teams, etc., but not top management.

Ron Ott working on organization agreement. Draft distributed today.

Funding – USBR will need money to continue. Hope directed funding could be used.

Kirk Rodgers hopes money would come from non-ecosystem federal 2000 funds. Some discussion that 50/50 funding for Tracy from ecosystem and non. Estimated cost \$5.7 million

Discussion over setting precedent of funding for screening – Kirk wants issue brought up at Policy Group.

500 cfs – Stein recommends that design team continue with 500 cfs number with understanding that number may be higher at certain times of year.

Proceed with detailed planning?

Recirculation – Stein wants explicit signal from Small Group to proceed, and what would be leading agency

Gary Bardini gave overview of major issues (see 7/28 handout)

Decision to proceed with recirculation study with focused objectives

DWR and CALFED will work together to scope and come back with cost estimates

Lester said we need to do a thorough job in order to withstand a legal challenge

Consolidation of Diversions

Proceed with detailed cost estimates, schedule and staff discussions. Come back to Small Group with details

Kirk feels calling issue “consolidation of diversions” sounds predispositional

MSCS meeting 7/28

Spear has concern over timing of flood and ecosystem environmental work in regard to improvements so that assurances can be given. Some confusion over timing of environmental documents and relation between programmatic and South Delta, for example.

2. Policy Group

August 11-12 open meeting

Need to add '99 Ops to agenda (Macaulay said to add prior to 2000 agenda item)

Mary Scoonover gave brief overview of what to expect at public meeting of Policy Group, explained Open Meeting Act requirements, so nothing can be added to agenda at last minute

Discussed the frequency of meetings

Need an update of the status of the WMS at next Small Group

Spear and Hagler voiced concern over training on tribal relations at the open meeting.

Move a more generalized discussion of a proposal to have training discussed on

Thursday, August 12

Spear and Rempel want preview of restoration coordination actions at next Small Group.

Concerns over 2000 ops/funding, EWA as well. Rempel – Yuba Tools discussion – should be consistent with SWRCB Delta hearing and DFG position. He will follow up with Wendy Halverson Martin

Gary Stern noted FERC initiated consultation with NMFS on hydro projects on Yuba River

3. Governance

Kate gave overview (see attachment)

All proposals will be before Policy Group for decision

August 3 Small Group will be last meeting to make final adjustments to Policy Group agenda

4. 99 Ops

DWR handed out copies of California's B(2) amicus curiae brief filed yesterday;

Davis/Babbitt letter; Hannigan/Rodgers letter; 99 Ops status report

Curtis Creel led a discussion of state make-up options

Rodgers asked if list of potential transactions is future planning or just for 1999? Just 1999 was considered.

Lester asked is plan and agreement was that Item 3 is make-up plan. Lester wants definite plan in place in time for Policy Group

Meeting between state and federal is set for Monday, August 2 – Spear wants meeting to open dialogue for B(2) coordination, federal budget for coming year

Curtis Creel asked if Ops Group should go back to work to come up with other make-up plans. Lester feels Ops Group should only come back with back-up plans to support Item 3

Monteith letter

Steve Ritchie pointed out letter from Sen. Monteith which voiced concern over San Joaquin releases