



Memorandum

Date: July 26, 1999
To: State/Federal Small Group
From: Mary Selkirk *Mary Selkirk*
Re: July 20, 1999 Meeting Outcomes

The following is a summary of meeting outcomes and actions proposed at the Small Group meeting held on Tuesday, July 20, 1999.

Environmental Water Account

Mike Spear reported on Quinn-Spear meeting that took place on Monday, July 19. Commented that the gaming technical group needs policy direction from the Small Group. Suggested creation of a smaller team from the Policy Group to provide direct input to the modelers. Goal is to have a working EWA proposed and in place in January 2000.

Outcomes:

Ron Ott will produce a white paper on the EWA, bring to the Small Group on August 3rd for review and discussion.

Mike Spear will convene a team of Policy Group members to provide advice and guidance to the EWA modelers.

Response letter to State Water Contractors and San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority

No letter drafted yet. Patrick Wright called for an overall game plan to respond to this letter along with others on the issue of 1999 water allocations.

Actions:

Wayne White will direct his staff to meet this week with DWR and the Bureau to deal with the Delta smelt issue, the 500 cfs permit from the Corps, and Grant Line Canal.

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

Kathy Kelly committed to requesting Ops Group to draft a plan on 1999 make-up for higher level review. She committed to having a draft plan by July 29th. She also committed in the meantime to file a permit application with the Corps, pending review by USFWS and EPA.

CALFED will draft a letter to State Water Contractors and SLDMWA informing them what the agencies are doing in response to their concerns. CALFED will also work through who should sign this letter. **CALFED Lead:** Steve Ritchie

South Delta Improvements

Stein Buer provided a progress report on South Delta-related activities, as follows:

1. Frank Wernette has worked on integrating the Comprehensive Flood Control Study and ERP actions into one project-level EIR/S.
2. CALFED is in the process of setting up an internal coordination process, as follows:
 - Rick Soehren will serve as regional ERP coordinator
 - Judy Heath will serve as coordinator for Water Quality projects. She will also set up coordination of CALFED activities and studies with those of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
 - Gary Bardini will coordinate recirculation study, VAMP, joint point of diversion studies and studies on consolidating diversions
 - Ron Ott will coordinate Tracy Fish Screen Study and Clifton Court Forebay screening study
 - Stein will continue to head up South Delta facilities studies
3. CALFED is working on completing preliminary budgets and schedules for these studies.
4. Mary Scoonover and Rick Soehren will be the lead CALFED staff on developing a policy statement on linkages. They will be considering creating an interagency agreement explicitly linking South Delta facilities and ERP studies, so that scrutiny of these projects does not fall totally on the resources agencies, specifically USFWS, in the permitting process. This type of agreement may also give assurance to water users that the ERP is not moving well ahead of other parts of the program.
5. The project purpose for SDI has been modified as suggested by USFWS to include restoration of ecological health of aquatic resources in the lower San Joaquin River and the south Delta region.
6. Language on GLC (p. 7) was changed to reflect USFWS comments.
7. BOCT will be chaired by the fisheries agencies—this language added on p. 8.

Frank Wernette commented that the linkage between the ERP strategic plan, scientific review, adaptive management and CMARP will be challenging, and difficult to describe in simple terms. There will be tremendous feedback loop at work in any of the environmental documentation.

Stein pointed out that these efforts will require significant personnel and financial resources which need to be committed in the near future. DFG, USFWS, and NMFS can probably initiate the planning process by reprioritizing current planning resources, but more substantive commitments need to be made in order to successfully launch the ERP planning process.

Stein indicated that according to the proposed schedule, the NOP and NOI would be filed in late August, and scoping meetings would be held in early October, shortly after close of comments on the draft CALFED PEIR/EIS.

Cumulative Impacts on Agriculture

A.J. Yates stated that CDFA has a need and a right to know exactly what parcels in the Delta are being considered for conversion and where they are located. He asked for a map to review impacts up front.

Action: CALFED will convene a working group to go over current proposals for early land acquisitions in the Delta with CDFA staff. Staff lead: Frank Wernette with Dick Daniel and Rick Soehren with Steve Shaffer from CDFA.

Next steps for South Delta:

More detail on budgeting, on linkages between studies and clarification of personnel needs.

Action: Steve Ritchie noted that CALFED had committed to providing a specific proposal on cost-sharing for the next BDAC meeting. He will initiate the process to go through all South Delta actions and make estimates of costs and propose cost splits. He committed to having a draft proposal at the Small Group meeting on July 29th.

South Delta Project Management

Kirk Rodgers asked to have this on the agenda at next week's Small Group meeting.

N.B.: Next week's Small Group meeting will be held on **THURSDAY, JULY 29** from 9-12 (room number will be listed on your agenda).