

SMALL GROUP

08/31/99

August 18, 1999

TO: Federal-State Small Group

FROM: Mary Selkirk



SUBJECT: August 17 meeting outcomes

The following are outcomes and actions from the Small Group meeting held on August 17th at CALFED.

De-brief of August 12th public Policy Group meeting: selected comments

Kirk Rodgers stated that he thought the presence of BDAC members at the table added "colloquy" to the discussions. He favored the federal-state consensus decision rule, and thought that it made it clear when decisions were being made.

Several people noted that having public meetings would require a lot of pre-meeting work and coordination. Tom Hagler noted that staff needs to be empowered to "correct their bosses" or respond in public, and pointed out the South Delta discussion as an example.

There was general agreement that the federal and state agencies needed to anticipate problems areas and issues—to the extent possible— prior to each public meeting.

Lester suggested that breaks/recesses be built in to the meeting agendas, or the chairs given the prerogative to call for a break, to allow caucusing on controversial issues as they arise.

Jim Monroe requested seating be arranged to allow staff to be seated near their respective chiefs during the meetings.

South Delta: Tracy Fish Screen funding proposal

Steve Ritchie proposed a 50-50 split (\$2.85 ecosystem, \$2.85 non-ecosystem) of the total of \$5.7 million for federal funds for the Tracy feasibility/design study. Discussion focused on what reactions might be to use of ecosystem funds for this effort, and how to include stakeholder input into final decision.

Outcome: Information/discussion only at this time. CALFED staff is preparing a proposal for funding of all directed actions in the context of the federal Bay Delta Act.

Comprehensive proposal will be presented to Small Group in the near future.

Tom Hagler predicted that the Ecosystem Roundtable would not be comfortable with the Tracy funding proposal. Discussion ensued as to the appropriate role of the Roundtable. One issue discussed was whether the Roundtable had a role in advising CALFED on non-ecosystem funding decisions. A second issue discussed was the CALFED agencies'

authority to fund directed actions or takes other actions absent Roundtable support. Kirk Rodgers pointed out that sometimes implementing agencies would have to pre-empt a Roundtable recommendation. He went on to emphasize that it is the agencies' responsibility to show why directed actions may be necessary. Tom Hagler pointed out that while the Roundtable, which is technically a sub-committee of BDAC, has no authority to veto any agency's actions, the composition of the Roundtable represents a good cross-section of the CALFED federal funding coalition.

Lester and others raised the questions as to whether CALFED or Policy Group staff needs to have a greater presence at the Roundtable. There was general agreement on this. Steve Hirsch proposed that there be a designated liaison or liaisons from the Small Group to the Roundtable.

Follow-up: Current staff who are observers at the Roundtable to be designated as liaisons to the Small Group. Currently Patrick Leonard and Perry Hergosell attend Roundtable meetings.

Patrick Wright proposed that Ecosystem Roundtable be a standing agenda item at Policy Group and possibly at BDA.C. He went on to state that the Small Group needs to clearly define what decisions go to the Roundtable. There was general agreement on this.

There was also general agreement that the Ecosystem Roundtable Chairs should be invited to every Policy Group meeting.

Follow-up: Mary Selkirk will make sure that Roundtable business is on BDAC and Policy Group agendas and that Roundtable Chairs are invited to Policy Group meetings at the request of BDAC Chair Mike Madigan.

South Delta

Environmental Documentation of Ag Diversion Screens

Frank Wernette presented recommendation from the SDIT , asking for Small Group concurrence.

Outcome: Small Group concurred with recommendation,

Briefing on North Delta Bundle (Rob Cooke)

Rob Cooke provided a briefing on the North Delta bundle.

Tom Hagler raised the question of what it means that CALFED is "prioritizing" the North and South Delta bundles. He noted the importance of getting the "whole view."

Outcome: Lester Snow responded by saying that this issue needed to be fully responded to, and committed CALFED staff to do an initial write-up.

Staff lead: Stein Buer

Steve Ritchie pointed out that CALFED would have a better picture of federal funding in the next few weeks.

Cumulative Ag impacts and mitigation

A.J. Yates raised the issue of ag impacts. Stating that CALFED has to deal with cumulative impacts and ag mitigation.

Lester responded that this is covered in the EIS/R, that there is disagreement on what constitutes necessary mitigation. He went on to say that CALFED needs to generate a paper that better explains this in a step-wise fashion.

Action: CALFED and attorneys will draft framework and work through DFG, USFWS and NMFS.

FY Budget 2000

Steve Ritchie stated that there will soon be a meeting on the FY 2001 federal budget. He stated that on the State side, he has seen only one direct DFG Budget Change Proposal for CALFED, and said he needed to hear from other State agencies. He proposed a State meeting by September 15th.

Patrick Wright said this should include resource agencies and also State Board and CVWQCB. Lester added that Department of Pesticide Regulation, Food and Ag and Cal-EPA.

Lead: Patrick Wright?

Babbitt - Davis meeting

Lester announced that Babbitt and Davis would be meeting on August 18th. They will be discussing Colorado River, B(2) and reinvigoration of CALFED, in particular the EWA.

Tom Hagler expressed concern that the press release would overstate or be inconsistent with the Phase II Report. He went on to say that CALFED has to deal with the baseline issue.

99 Ops

Steve Macaulay reported on the Ops Group. He stated that the State has moved its Feather River release from October to November. He said he has asked SWP to develop target for recovery.

Integration of flood management and Ecosystem actions

Patrick Wright reiterated that he wanted to pull together a smaller team to integrate flood management actions: Corps, Steve Ritchie and DFG, to look specifically at what CALFED can do before completion of the Comprehensive study.

Lead: Patrick Wright

Selected Briefings

Patrick Wright mentioned that a group wants to do a briefing for the Small Group on Lawrence Livermore Lab and their interest in and expertise in building a water model for California.

Lester suggested selective briefings on this and on future issues, including dredge materials re-use.

Ag Land Preservation

Lester asked Patrick Wright to proceed with setting up a meeting on this issue. A.J. Yates stated that CFA has met with all groups and they're ready.

FOIA

CALFED received its first aggressive FOIA request from California Farm Bureau, addressed to Babbitt and Nichols.