

9/7/99

PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY - PASADENA, SAN DIEGO AND COSTA MESA

Comments received at all three sites were similar. Over 125 people took the opportunity to comment. Sizable emphasis/interest in water supply reliability/improvements, improved water quality and certainty that they will only have to pay for their fair share. All are consolidated in the following:

Water Conservation

Better use of water conservation and operation of existing dams.

Conservation should be at the top of the list for improving water supply.

Water users should be charged true cost for water.

Need to price water correctly to get water conservation.

CALFED depends on conservation in first seven years of the Program which will not benefit water supply/reliability.

Grey water use should be a part of the CALFED Program.

Need an aggressive compensation plan for water conservation.

Fail to address strong conservation program; need a soft path solution.

Water Supply

CALFED is following a timid approach to water development.

Need to stress regional water sufficiency.

Consider desalinization.

There is a water supply crisis, for the project to be balanced, need additional storage.

Resolve water supply question.

Conservation can only go so far.

No subsidies for water development.

Eliminating storage is ludicrous.

Looking for reliable dry year supply and full entitlement in wet years.

No storage document in EIS/R. Why not?

Storage needed, recall the Delta smelt problem this summer.

Increases in demand require additional development.

Drought is the enemy, develop new water supply to beat the drought.

There are 20M new folks coming into CAL. Needs 6.6 MAF for urban and 20 MAF for ag to feed them.

Can't deal with shortages without storage.

Groundwater is not sustainable.

Groundwater recharge, not surface storage following efforts to improve conservation.

Water Quality

Program needs to be implemented quickly and continue on an accelerated time scale.

Program needs to look at non-point source pollutants as well.

Concern that new water quality standards will be more stringent and in place before CALFED gets moving. Meeting the new standards will be costly and will leave no one interested in paying

for/needng CALFED actions.

CALFED sets aside decision on organic carbon improvements for 7 years. Billions will be required to meet new standards.

Need low salinity water from Delta to blend with Colo. R. water. Also for increased opportunities to recycle water.

Low salinity water needed for high tech. industries.

Life science industries need good non-variable water quality as well as reliable water.

Provide direction on products applied/used in water in order to reduce salinity.

Research needed on drug build up in wastewater.

With lower water quality, treatment costs rise as do public health issues.

There are no concrete projects to help water quality. Need P.C. .

Aim is to reduce certain contaminants rather than deal with problems.

Fish and Wildlife

Water conservation has reduced the number of wildlife along canals, etc.

Increase flows through and decrease diversions from the Delta to improve the area for aquatic species.

Concerned that water supply and diversion facilities will be built and environment degraded.

Will diverting water help/hinder wildlife? How do we know?

What is being done about exotic species? How do we know that the Program can overcome those potential impacts?

Move terrestrial endangered species to safe sites before undertaking work.

Agriculture

Concerned about ag. land being taken out of production and impacts to the nation's food supply.

Agriculture's use of 80% of the water is a myth. Two-thirds of all water stays in the environment. The remainder, runs off to the ocean, goes to the environment, goes to agriculture and to urban areas.

Fish and wildlife are important but, not any more important than a farmer.

We need to eat, why retire ag. land?

Cows need water as does food cows eat.

The CALFED plan puts ag. in danger.

Urban growth impacts ag. land.

Watershed Management

Need to invest in S. Cal watersheds.

Investigate/initiate watershed projects in San Diego County.

Protect watersheds by preventing sprawl.

Lack of stewardship by Forest Service. CALFED needs to work closely with them to protect watersheds.

Finance/Governance/Assurance

Concerned that S. Cal will be asked to contribute more than their fair share to pay for the project yet have nothing to show for it.

Need a verifiable increase in suply and quality if S. Cal is to support project.

There needs to be a firm connection between what we get and what we are asked to pay.

Water quality/reliability actions needed in the near term for S. Cal to support the Program.

No regulatory surprises.

Agree to put off conveyance (P.C.) but, want assurance it will be clearly investigated.

Need a trigger mechanism in the ROD which recognizes regional variability in water conservation and also provides credits for past work.

Need assurance that existing supplies won't be cut and that new sources will be sought.

Finance plan does not exist, how can we comment on it? Need to assess benefit/cost ration of all alternatives.

Extended costs should be part of the financial plan.

Tourisim/recreation contributes \$60 B to Cal's economy. Future condition of streams/lakes will determine if these dollars continue to be spent in Cal.

CALFED had a consistent leadership moment when the Accord was signed. Leadership has been lacking sense.