

September 22, 1999

**TO** : Federal-State Small Group

**FROM** : Mary Selkirk

**SUBJECT** : Summary of September 21 Small Group Meeting

- **Multi-Species Conservation Strategy**

Mike Fris of the USFWS provided a briefing on the focus and scope of the CALFED Multi-Species Conservation Strategy.

- **MSCS and EWA**

*Outcome:* There was general agreement that the MSCS monitoring recommendations are integrated into the Environmental Water Account. Wayne White went on to say that the EWA components should go into the South Delta bundle. There was general agreement on this.

Steve Ritchie noted that logically the ERP and the MSCS, integrated together, could serve as the recovery plan for a number of species, but that this issue needed to be thoroughly worked through and resolved. Follow-up needs to be established.

- **Action Specific Implementation Plans and MSCS**

*Comment:* Steve Ritchie noted that no CALFED agency should do any of the ASIPs independently. There was general agreement on this.

- **Water Management Development Team/EWA**

Lester Snow sought concurrence on two issues pertaining to this effort, membership and basic groundrules for participation.

*Outcome:* Small Group generally approved the proposed membership list, with the additions proposed by Lester.

Ron Ott and Elise Holland noted that they have retained the services of a facilitator. The Small Group agreed that outside facilitation was necessary for such a large group with such a complex set of tasks.

*Outcome:* No call-ins would be permitted at the team's meetings, but each participant would be allowed to designate one alternate. Small Group agreed on this approach.

*Outcome:* Ryan Broddrick requested that Jim White be added to the list. Lester assented.

- **Long-Term Governance** (*October 5 agenda item: discussion and concurrence*)  
Kate Hansel reported on progress on development of the long-term governance proposal, and reviewed what will be discussed at the full Policy Group on October 5<sup>th</sup>.
- **FY 2000 Implementation** (*October 5<sup>th</sup> agenda item: discussion and concurrence*)  
Steve Ritchie noted that he had received comments on the draft document from only one CALFED agency individual, and reminded the Small Group that the full Policy Group will be asked to concur with the priorities as described in the document.

He also noted that the federal FY 2000 appropriation might be around \$50 million, with \$30 million for ecosystem programs and \$20 for non-eco programs.

In response to a question from Tom Hagler, Steve noted that the Policy Group would be asked to concur on the proposed proportions for funding allocation. In addition, in response to a question from Tom Hagler, he acknowledged that this may change depending on the outcome of the EWA assets allocation, and thus Attachment 2 in the current version of the document may change.

**Outcome:** Steve noted that the document would be revised for the Policy Group.

- **Restoration Coordination Priorities** (*October 5<sup>th</sup> agenda item: discussion and decision*)
  - **FY 2000 Ecosystem Priorities** (*update and discussion on October 5<sup>th</sup>*)  
At its September meeting the Ecosystem Roundtable recommended that a science panel be convened to review both the proposed FY 2000 ecosystem project priorities, as well as proposed projects for FY 2000. They wished to defer their own recommendations to BDAC and the Policy Group pending the outcome of this panel, which will convene on September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. This process would delay BDAC review and Policy Group approval of the priorities by about one month.

**Outcome:** The Small Group agreed that it was important to stick to the process, and respect the recommendation process, from the Roundtable first, then to BDAC and finally to the Policy Group for approval. Perry Hergosell, who is one of the Small Group liaisons to the Roundtable, emphasized that respecting this process would go a long way in supporting the integrity of the public input and review process.

- **Level 3 Amendment** (*October 5<sup>th</sup> decision item*)  
Wendy Halverson-Martin distributed an information memo about a project for which the Ecosystem Roundtable is requesting approval of a funding increase. The project in question is a setback levee project, sponsored by the Turlock Irrigation District.

**Outcome:** The Small Group proposed a more detailed preview of this decision item at its meeting on September 28<sup>th</sup>, and proposed that this same presentation be made at the October 5<sup>th</sup> Policy Group meeting.

- **Tolay Creek**

Wendy also distributed an internal informational memo on problems that have arisen on the Tolay Creek project, a levee-breaching project in the North Bay.

- **South Delta Improvements**

Kathy Kelly presented a short description of proposed dredging in the South Delta area to provide relief from sedimentation and low water levels at Tracy Marina and at agricultural diversions downstream of Grant Line Canal Barrier as well as the Hammer Island area downstream of the Old River at Tracy Barrier.

**Outcome:** The dredging activities should move forward as interim agency actions, not as a component of CALFED implementation.

Dredging for agricultural intakes and for boating access should go forward in parallel, as separate actions. The ag intake dredging would be addressed through modification of the Temporary Barriers Program description expanded to include the impact areas downstream. Consultation would be re-opened for the modified project.

The boating access dredging would be addressed through a Nationwide 35 Corps of Engineers permit action.

Modification of ag intakes, including potential extension and screening of intakes, would be deferred until a later time and not linked to the dredging proposal.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, September 28, 1999

**Proposed agenda:**

- **WMDT/EWA Progress**
- **South Delta**
  - Project Purposes language
  - Re-circulation Study
- **Restoration coordination** (October 5<sup>th</sup> agenda item)
  - Level Three amendment request
- **FY 2000 Priorities/Implementation** (October 5<sup>th</sup> agenda item)

NOTE: There will be no Federal-State Small Group Meeting on Tuesday, October 5. The Policy Group will have a meeting at the Sacramento Convention Center on that date from 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.
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