

October 13, 1999

TO : Federal-State Small Group

FROM : Mary Selkirk *Mary Selkirk*

SUBJECT : Summary of October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting outcomes and actions

**1. Follow-up items from September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting**

--Report on proposal for additional dredging on GLC--Kathy Kelly

*Action:* A meeting will take place next week involving DWR, USFWS and others.

**2. De-brief October 5<sup>th</sup> Policy Group**

Steve Ritchie noted that following the Policy Group meeting, Gary Bobker had indicated to him that he would have made a comment, but did not because it was not related to a decision item. Steve told him that it was important for him to make his views known at the earliest time to get those comments on record.

**3. Final EIS/R preparation (November 17<sup>th</sup> Policy Group agenda) --Process for response to comments, identifying and elevating policy questions**

Dennis O'Bryant explained the process has been set up to handle comments which require policy decisions. When such issues arise, staff will meet with Steve Ritchie the Friday before the Small Group meeting to discuss possible need for Small Group decision. If Steve believes it necessary, a briefing paper will be prepared for distribution to SG prior to the scheduled meeting.

**4. 2000 Ops (November 17<sup>th</sup> Policy Group agenda)--Steve Macaulay**

Curtis Creel presented a paper which included a series of near-term measures to avoid unanticipated fishery and water supply conflicts, including:

- Joint Point of Diversion (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation)
- Increase Banks Pumping Plants (Department of Water Resources)
- Flexing the export/inflow ratio (Ops Group)
- Lease storage space (Vidler Water Company, Inc.)
- Water acquisition (Vidler water Company, Inc.)
- Source shifting' (MWD, Kern County Interests)

*Outcome:* Steve Macaulay and Curtis Creel will:

- Add water quality to the table of near-term measures
- Include a discussion on the purpose of each measure.
- provide additional details on the tasks that need to be accomplished for each of the measures.
- Provide details on the costs.

- Factor in the use of (b)(2) water this fall/winter. Curtis will work with Lowell Ploss on this.
5. **WMDT/EWA (November 17<sup>th</sup> Policy Group agenda)**--Mike Spear, Steve Macaulay, Ron Ott  
No presentation was made. Ron was preparing for an afternoon meeting of Water Management Development Team.
  6. **Update on 404 programmatic compliance**--Rick Soehren  
Rick Soehren explained the schedule of the 404 MOA. There continues to be concern regarding whether all of the soft paths need to be pursued before attempting storage. Conveyance is also under question.

Stein Buer asked at what point is the Small Group comfortable with releasing the draft for review by stakeholders before engaging discussion in public. There was additional discussion as to feasibility of presenting a near-final version, which often requires substantial revision to incorporate stakeholder suggestions.

**Outcome:** Steve Ritchie asked that next week specific proposal be presented on how the MOA will be presented. Soehren said the 404 group is going to meet next Wednesday, so Steve gave him an extra week to articulate the various issues and prepare the proposal.

7. **Briefing on National Estuary Program** --Theresa Pacheco

HR 1775 before Congress authorizes the Corps to be the main implementor of the Estuary Habitat Restoration Partnership Act of 1999. The Federal share of the cost of an estuary habitat restoration project assisted under this Act shall not exceed 65 percent.

8. **South Delta**--Stein Buer and others
  - Comprehensive schedule:** Stein presented an August 4 draft of the implementation plan for Stage 1 Actions in the Lower San Joaquin River and South Delta Region
  - ERP Work Plan:** Frank Wernette presented the draft project work plan, requesting \$1 million for FY 2000. He was asked by Wayne White if they have set targets for the projects. Frank said they have not. Steve Ritchie asked if they were confident we are moving as fast as we can.

Mike Spear expressed an interest in hearing the Roundtables' comments on the South Delta. Wendy Halverson-Martin said they feel it needs a wider scientific study. Spear said he is concerned there is a disconnect between the RT and the ERP. He expressed that the RT shouldn't be able to say no.

Wendy responded that they are just an advisory body, and that she has reiterated to the RT that their role is advisory only. She went on to say that the real concern of the RT is the scientific credibility of the ERP.

--**Water Quality components** - Patrick Wright asked why the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) efforts for salinity were not scheduled until Spring 2001. Paul Marshall explained that the TMDL schedules were taken from the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Program is working with the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the EPA. Water Quality components will be re-scheduled first on next week's agenda.

**Other Business:**

Walter Yep asked if the group would like to hear at some future time about the nine reservoirs they operate. Some interest was expressed.

*Next Small Group meeting:* Tuesday, October 19  
9-12, Room 1142  
Resources Building

*Agenda:*  
South Delta  
Water Quality components  
WMDT/EWA

*Next Policy Group meeting: Wednesday, November 17*