

DRAFT
May 24, 2000

TO: Federal-State Management Group

FROM: Mary Selkirk

SUBJECT: Meeting Outcomes - May 23, 2000

The following is a summary of outcomes from the CALFED Federal-State Management Group meeting held on Tuesday, May 23, 2000. Dick Daniel, CALFED staff, led the discussions.

1. Announcements and Followup

- Science Oversight Team Update
Marty Kjelson, USFWS and SOT member, asked for comments by the end of the week on the SOT-developed "Key Management Decisions Requiring Science Input at or before the End of Stage 1". There was intense discussion on the appropriateness of some of the questions as to whether they extended beyond the science field. SOT is working on a timetable to transmit this document to stakeholders for reaction by June 1 with a final decision made by mid-June in order to meet deadlines for possible inclusion in the Phase II Report.

Perry Herrgesell, DFG and SOT member, said this is only a part of what SOT has developed. Dick Daniel felt stakeholder input should be requested only after management and policy review.

Outcome:

- Dick Daniel requested Federal-State Management Group review the document and offer comments to Marty by the end of the week (mkielson@delta.dfg.ca.gov).
- Management Group will then review and comment on the revised document.

Perry Herrgesell, DFG and SOT member, developed a one-page conceptual document on the CALFED monitoring and research center. The center's purpose would be to conduct monitoring and research to determine if goals and objectives of the CALFED program are being met and to validate and improve upon conceptual models of ecosystem functions and part of adaptive management experiments and interventions. SOT proposes the center be established within a 50-mile radius of Stockton.

Outcome: Perry asked for guidance from the Management Group on what it would like SOT to accomplish.

- Fay Island Acquisition
This matter would be discussed further at the Water Operation Management Team meeting later in the day as it relates to DWR's Delta dredging project. Kathy Kelly, DWR, expressed the operators' continued concern with developing an attractive habitat

for the Delta smelt on Fay Island, which is close to the State and Federal pumps, and thereby perhaps exacerbating the take problems, which in turn would increase pump curtailment. There are currently no assurances the take limit will be adjusted to accommodate the use of Fay Island to perform the testing of theories on Delta smelt reaction to attractive shallow-water habitat in that vicinity. Dick Daniel, CALFED Ecosystem Program Director, feels this a prime opportunity to conduct field experimentation to answer Policy Group's concern whether we can recover fish with a through-Delta conveyance option. There was discussion whether this endeavor could qualify for an independent research permit.

Wayne White added that once the ROD is signed, new operational limits will be imposed.

Dick Daniel said this is a private acquisition and warned that willing sellers seldom wait a couple of years while the government makes up its mind.

2. **Policy Group Meeting** - The May 24 Policy Group meeting was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts.
3. **Ecosystem Restoration Program Focus Group** - Bruce Digenero, CALFED consultant, explained the Focus Group was established as a joint agency/stakeholder policy forum to assist CALFED in the period prior to the ROD to identify, address and resolve key policy issues associated with the ERP and its implementation. Mr. Digenero briefed the group on ERP Focus Group's preliminary recommendations:

Program Integration

- Commit to establishing a single blueprint for ecosystem restoration and conservation (integrated science and transparent ecological conceptual models, shared vision of ecological restoration, and comprehensive management framework).
- Commit to using sound science and a comprehensive Science Program that serves as a common resource.
- Support development of ecological conceptual models as the basis for informed decision-making.
- Adopt the goals of the ERP and MSCS as the shared vision for restoration.
- Commit to using the goals of the ERP and MSCS for environmental water management (including the EWA and EWP).
- Sign an MOU that defines how parties will coordinate and interact in pursuit of a single blueprint.

Priority Setting

- Establish a process for determining priorities and selecting projects.
- Establish priorities in a coordinated and integrated fashion
- Adopt policy principles for guiding prioritization and project selection.

ERP Objectives

- Adopt refined strategic objectives and rationales.

4. **Status of Groundwater/Conjunctive Use Proposals** - Mark Cowin, CALFED Water Management Program, gave a brief update on the proposal selection process. All proposals have received preliminary review. The selection criteria includes consistency with CALFED goals and objectives (environmental benefits, local benefits, added Delta supply, reduced Delta demand and water quality improvement); local support, plan to effectively manage, protect and monitor the affected basin; availability, reliability and quality of recharge water source; technical feasibility; funding sources; and expandability. The proposals will be evaluated by a selection criteria, which includes demonstration of conjunctive use (recharge, monitoring, management planning), cooperative.

Outcome: Recommendations for award will be forthcoming in a couple of weeks.