



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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Date: November 30, 1995
To: CALFED *Rick Babbitt for*
From: Lester A. Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
Subject: Update of CALFED Bay-Delta Program Activities

Upcoming CALFED Meeting

The next CALFED meeting will be held on December 14, 1995, in room 1131 at the Resources Building. The Executive Session will meet from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m., and the Public Session from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. This CALFED meeting will be very important in that we intend to discuss preliminary alternatives developed subsequent to the December 4 Public Workshop and the December 6 BDAC meeting. Draft agendas for the Executive and Public Sessions are attached for your review (Attachment 1).

Bay-Delta Accord Event

A media event is planned to commemorate the first anniversary of the Bay-Delta Accord signed last December. This event will be held on Friday, December 15, beginning about 10:30 a.m., at the River Boat Delta King, 1000 Front Street, Sacramento. Secretary Babbitt, EPA Administrator Browner, and Governor Wilson and Betsy Rieke have been invited to attend. Remarks will highlight the events of the past year including the accomplishments and milestones associated with the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

CALFED Bay-Delta Program Public Workshops

The next CALFED Bay-Delta Program workshop is scheduled for December 4, 1995, at the Beverly Garland Hotel in Sacramento, CA. The title of this workshop is "Assembling Alternatives", and focuses on review of the process to develop solution alternatives. This workshop

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

will provide participants with the opportunity to examine the alternative assembly process and participate in an exercise to assemble alternatives.

BDAC Meeting -- December 6, 1995

The next BDAC meeting will be held at the Beverly Garland Hotel, 1780 Tribute Road, Sacramento, CA, on Wednesday, December 6, 1995, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The objective of this BDAC meeting will be to introduce BDAC members to the process for assembling, evaluating and refining the preliminary alternatives (see Agenda - Attachment 2). BDAC members are beginning to become more engaged in the process, however, there is still a tendency to focus on specific actions. The Program team is attempting to educate BDAC members on the process and on some of the underlying assumptions and concepts that are becoming more widely accepted by the scientific and water user community. A BDAC meeting has also been scheduled for February 15, 1996, at the Hilton Hotel (airport) in Los Angeles.

December 5 Informal Educational Session for BDAC

An informal educational session will be held on December 5, 1995, at the Beverly Garland Hotel, in Sacramento from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., and is open to the public. A dinner will also be held from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for BDAC members. The objective of the educational session is to provide BDAC members with a better understanding of ecological concepts and principles especially related to ecosystem health. This session will feature a short overview on Bay-Delta hydrology, a slide show "Tour of the Delta", a presentation on concepts related to ecosystem health, and a presentation on an ecosystem restoration case study from Florida. The program description is attached (Attachment 3).

CALFED Bay-Delta Program Public Meetings

As a primary part of the public outreach program, the public meetings are being held once a month around the state. At the present time, we have held a public meeting in Stockton on September 26, Oakland on October 26, and Costa Mesa on November 28. Other public meetings will be held in Redding in Northern California, on December 19, and January 24 in Fresno. The objective of these meetings is to give the general public, who may not attend the BDAC meetings or public workshops held during the day, the opportunity to learn about the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, and express their views and concerns.

Stakeholder Activities

As you know, the Stakeholder group has formed several smaller focus groups to address

concerns in specific areas. These groups include: the Ecosystems and Facilities Committee, the Legal and Institutional Committee and the Financial Strategy Committee. The Ecosystem and Facilities Committee has further divided into two groups; one group will discuss alternatives from a Delta transfer facility perspective and development of evaluation criteria to identify fatal flaws in these alternatives. The second group will design alternatives from an ecological restoration perspective that may include a generic restoration component to be included in all alternatives and more specific components for individual alternatives. These two groups will then meet to synthesize their results and determine how they can work together. The Legal and Institutional Committee will also meet and coordinate with the actions of the Ecosystem and Facilities Committee. This group will examine institutional mechanisms that will fit into and work with the alternatives and also determine what institutional changes would be needed to implement the alternatives.

CALFED Bay-Delta Program - Update on Implementation of the Plan of Action

At the present time, the CALFED Bay-Delta Program is beginning a critical stage in the alternative development process. We are currently working with the consultant team to generate a very broad spectrum of alternatives. The first step will be to develop the boundary or edge alternatives which represent the more extreme positions in resolving the conflicts. These preliminary alternatives will be reviewed by the Program Coordination Team (PCT) members and other agency staff experts on December 12 for effectiveness and completeness. The group will also discuss which actions or action categories would form the core of alternative development and will become a part of each alternative. Comments from the extended PCT will be utilized to refine the preliminary alternatives which will then be further developed to a much larger and very broad group to include all the possible alternatives (approximately 150). These preliminary alternatives will be refined and screened to about 20 to 30 alternatives which will be evaluated by the extended PCT and further screened to 8 to 12 preliminary alternatives. These 8 to 12 preliminary alternatives will form the basis of the progress report on alternative development scheduled to be completed by mid-March, 1996.

It is anticipated that extensive agency involvement will be required for the next several months as the alternative development process progresses. We have provided PCT meeting schedules and agenda items for each PCT meeting through mid-February to assist agencies in allocating staff and time. We will continue to update the schedule as refinement occurs.

Concurrently, we are also developing performance measures to measure the effectiveness of the alternatives in meeting the objectives. A separate agency expert team for the ecosystem quality performance measures will begin meeting in January to assist in developing, refining and validating performance measures. We are also being assisted by outside efforts to develop performance measures and ecological indicators.

Ecosystem Quality Strategy

Two workshops have recently been conducted (sponsored by a variety of groups including academics, agencies and stakeholders) to assist the CALFED Bay-Delta Program in refining ecosystem goals and developing ecological indicators. These workshops have been attended by State and Federal agency staff, as well as stakeholders. In a workshop held on October 2, in Tiburon, entitled "Goals for Restoring a Healthy Ecosystem", a list of ecosystem goals were developed. In another workshop held on October 28 in Berkeley, entitled "Restoration of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Ecosystem: Choosing Indicators of Ecological Integrity", scientists representing a broad spectrum of interests attempted to refine and develop the concept of indicators to more directly measure the structure and function of the Bay-Delta ecosystem to ensure that resources are protected while human use continues. Additional workshops are planned for late January to continue this process to assist the CALFED effort in development of ecosystem performance measures.

Geographic Scope

The Geographic Scope for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program has been the topic of considerable discussion over the past several months. The primary area of concern about our delineation focused on the exclusion of the San Francisco Bay in the geographic scope of problems. Concern was expressed that in order to solve the problems of the Delta, we may sacrifice freshwater inflows to the San Francisco Bay. The attached paper attempts to address this concern and provide assurances that necessary freshwater flows to the San Francisco Bay are considered in our Geographic Scope (Attachment 4). This version of the Geographic Scope will appear in CALFED Bay-Delta Program documentation.

Mission Statement

After considerable discussions with various agencies, stakeholders and BDAC members, the CALFED Bay-Delta Program has finalized a Mission Statement that we feel embodies the goals and mission of our Program. We have made several changes in wording, including adding a set of solution principles to assist in guiding us in meeting our goals. The finalized Mission Statement is attached, along with the solution principles and primary objectives for each of the resource areas (Attachment 5). This version of the Mission Statement will appear in CALFED Bay-Delta Program documentation.

Attachments