

February 25, 1997 Meeting with Bay Area Environmental Interests, at EPA Region IX Headquarters

Woodard briefly went over the material presented to the Bay Delta Advisory Council at their January 30 meeting. Two hours of discussion ensued. Attached is a copy of the meeting sign up sheet. The following perspectives were expressed by the environmental representatives:

- The Water Quality Program is perceived to be an unwanted "orphan" of CALFED. It is not expected that water quality issues will be taken seriously, nor is it believed that equitable resources will be brought to bear on correcting water quality problems.
- Not only is Water Quality perceived as an orphan but, likewise, so is terrestrial habitat restoration. CALFED is seen as exclusively focusing on fisheries restoration.
- CALFED is perceived as giving no thought to the shortcomings of "cobbling up" fishery habitat restoration projects only to find later the water or sediments is toxic.
- In order to establish current conditions and to evaluate the effects of CALFED undertakings, a comprehensive water quality assessment program should be developed and implemented immediately, in the knowledge that a good deal of scientific information is needed in the decision making process. The meeting participants will send us a letter from the Environmental Water Council, with a number of signatories, stating this view.
- The CALFED process is utterly mysterious. Bay Area environmental stakeholders do not understand where, when, or how to provide input to the process.
- The perception is that CALFED was created because there are those who do not like, and do not wish to implement, some recommendations in the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for the Bay-Delta. CALFED is seen as reinventing the wheel, and there is frustration that the Bay Area environmental interests' contributions of time and effort to previous processes is not being utilized by CALFED.
- CALFED appears not to be including the Bay in the program.
- The product of the Water Quality Program Component should include specific goals and commitments, such as "by year _____, Diazinon levels should not exceed _____ug/L".
- Toward the end of the meeting it was said that, notwithstanding their criticisms, our sincere efforts to involve them in the process are appreciated, and there is "a lot of good stuff" in the water quality program.

Woodard stated we would be pleased to attend other functions to improve their access to the process.

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