



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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August 12, 1998

Ms. Melinda Brown, Chairperson
Shasta Tehama Bioregional Council
Post Office Box 2036
Redding, CA 96049-2036

Dear Ms. Brown:

Your participation is requested on the newly formed CALFED Watershed Work Group. This group is part of the Bay-Delta Advisory Council (BDAC), a federally chartered advisory council to CALFED whose meetings are publicly notified. The new Watershed Work Group will be made up of about 20 voluntary participants and will be co-chaired by BDAC members Martha Davis of the Sierra Nevada Alliance, and Robert Meacher of the Plumas County Board of Supervisors/Regional Council of Rural Counties. The recommended list of invited participants for this work group included consideration to the breadth of representation of local watershed programs as well as consideration to the geographic diversity.

The purpose of the Watershed Work Group is to advise the CALFED Program and its agencies on components of the Watershed Program and its implementation strategy. The work group was formed in response to the numerous requests BDAC received from members of the public to be more directly involved in the development of the proposed Watershed Program. As with other CALFED work groups, the participants in the Watershed Work Group will not vote on any issues, nor will the work group make decisions. Guidance from the work group will be used to assist the CALFED staff and BDAC in this crucial stage of identifying options for addressing policy issues related to watershed management. All work products developed by the work group will be fact finding in nature.

Unfortunately, the immediate time schedule for the work group is extremely tight. As many of you are aware, CALFED is in the process of revising the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report/Statement which will be included in the draft document as well as a new implementation strategy for watershed actions.

CALFED is seeking advice from the work group on the following:

- Goals and objectives of the Watershed Program
- Criteria for CALFED participation in watershed projects
- Watershed actions for Stage 1 (first 1-7 years) Implementation and beyond
- Revised Watershed Management Strategy which remains as a Technical Appendix to the Draft PEIR/EIS.

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
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

Ms. Melinda Brown, Chairperson
August 12, 1998
Page Two

The Watershed Work Group will be asked to meet 2-3 times before October 9, 1998 to accomplish this expedited review. It is difficult to assess the time commitment required for participation in the work group. However, please anticipate spending up to six hours per meeting and about four to eight hours after each meeting on follow-up assignments. Also, we expect the meetings to be held in various locations in northern and central California, so your ability to travel is crucial to your participation. Unfortunately, the law prevents CALFED from being able to offer compensation for your attendance at these public meetings.

The schedule for the remainder of the year should be less intense. The work group will have plenty of opportunity both before and after the release of the revised Draft PEIS/EIR to provide additional input and detail prior to the publication of the final environmental documents. The work group will continue to meet as long as it is needed by CALFED.

The first BDAC Watershed Work Group meeting is set for August 19, 1998 from 1-5 p.m. at Chico State University, O'Connell Technology Center, Room 134, (across from the library on Warner Street).

This will be an orientation meeting and members from the Interagency Watershed Advisory Team (composed of CALFED agencies) will be present to discuss the Watershed Program materials that are being proposed for inclusion in the Draft PEIS/EIR. Enclosed for your review is a copy of the draft goals and objectives, and the proposed draft implementation actions for Stage 1 (first 7 years).

Additional public workshops are also being planned as part of the BDAC Watershed Work Group's activities. The schedule for these workshops will be reviewed at the first work group meeting.

All of us at CALFED hope that you will be able to join the BDAC Watershed Work Group. Please contact Judy Heath at (916) 653-2994 to let us know whether you can participate.

If you need further information, please contact Judy Kelly at (916) 653-6791, or Judy Heath at (916) 653-2994.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Ms. Martha Davis, BDAC member
Mr. Robert Meacher, BDAC member
Ms. Judith Redmond, BDAC member