Chapter 10. Public and Agency Involvement

Since its beginning, the CALFED Bay-Delta Program has made substantial efforts to involve the public in its information-gathering and decision-making process in order to ensure that Program goals and objectives are understood and supported. Public and agency involvement includes public workshops, multi-cultural outreach, community presentations, scientific review panels, and special teams made up of agency experts.

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10. Public and Agency Involvement

10.1 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public and agency involvement through outreach and education has been a focus of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program (Program) since its initial stages. These efforts have helped shape the Program, as well as develop the Programmatic EIS/EIR. For nearly 3 years, the Program has relied on continuous comments and involvement from individuals and groups who have a stake in finding long-term solutions for the problems affecting the Bay-Delta system.

Participants representing rural, agricultural, municipal, and industrial water users; fishing interests; environmental organizations; businesses; and the general public have helped to define problems and evaluate alternatives to solve the challenges confronting the Bay-Delta system.

To date, thousands of Californians have contributed to the Program by participating in public meetings and workshops—volunteering time, sharing expertise, and expressing ideas and opinions.

During Phase I, which ended in September 1996, the Program held scoping meetings, technical workshops, public information meetings, and public Bay-Delta Advisory Council (BDAC) work group meetings. This commitment to active public involvement has continued through Phase II, with additional public meetings, presentations before focused groups, media outreach, special newsletter mailings, regularly updated information on the Program's website, and a toll-free public information telephone line.

10.1.1 PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

Beginning in August 1995, 12 day-long workshops were conducted in Sacramento over a 3-year period—four workshops in 1995, five in 1996, and three in 1997. Open to the general public, the intensive working sessions focused on providing a solid framework for the solution-finding process. Using brainstorming techniques, informal debate, and analysis, an average of 100 participants at each workshop worked together to help identify the problems facing the Bay-Delta system, establish objectives for problem solving, and develop the actions necessary to achieve the objectives.

These workshops were a vital part of the public outreach program and provided an opportunity for the many different interests in the Bay-Delta system to share perspectives, reach common understandings, and develop cooperative solution alternatives.

10.1.2 PUBLIC MEETINGS

In addition to the public workshops, 28 open-house public meetings were conducted to provide the general public who did not attend public workshops or other meetings the opportunity to learn about the Program and to express their views and concerns. Each public meeting featured an informal, open-house session with displays and informational materials, followed by a prepared general presentation about the Program.

During Phase I, 14 public meetings were held in 13 communities throughout California to identify problems in the Bay-Delta system, including Redding, Red Bluff, Sacramento, Walnut Grove, Stockton, Oakland (2), Los Banos, Fresno, Bakersfield, Pasadena, Long Beach, Costa Mesa, and San Diego. Between September 1995 and May 1996, another six public meetings were held to acquaint Californians with the Program, solicit early public comment on Bay-Delta possible solutions, and gauge local public reaction to the 10 draft alternatives. During Phase II, eight more public meetings were held in communities from Chico to San Diego in 1997, to inform stakeholders and the public about the Program's progress and the process to identify a preferred alternative, as well as to solicit input on the alternatives. Two additional public meetings were held following the end of the March 1998 Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR comment period: on Roberts Island on July 27, 1998, and in Stockton on September 9, 1998—both Delta communities. These additional meetings were in conjunction with a BDAC meeting.

Notices for the public meetings were sent to addresses on the Program public outreach database, and meeting packets were sent to all key agency staff and other target audiences. To encourage participation at the events, the Program conducted heavy advance publicity before each meeting. Attendance ranged from 23 to 200 at each meeting. Total attendance for all the meetings was more than 2,000.

10.1.3 PROGRAMMATIC EIS/EIR SCOPING AND COMMENT MEETINGS

As part of the programmatic EIS/EIR process, eight scoping meetings were held around the state to solicit input into the scope of the environmental review process. All scoping meetings were held in April 1996—in Oakland, Walnut Grove, Red Bluff, Long Beach, San Diego, Pasadena, Bakersfield, and Sacramento.

Seventeen public hearings were held across the state to gain input into the March 1998 Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR. More than 400 people spoke at these hearings, which were held in Ontario, Fresno, Oakland, Burbank, Bakersfield, Santa Cruz, Irvine, Walnut Grove, Chico, San Diego, Pittsburg, Redding, San Jose, Vacaville, Yuba City, Stockton, and Santa Rosa. A similar public hearing effort was scheduled for public comments about the June 1999 Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR. Sixteen public hearings were held across the state, at which more than 800 people spoke. The meetings were held in Stockton, San Bernardino, Huntington Park, Salinas, Oakland, Pasadena, San Diego, Costa Mesa, San Jose, Antioch, Santa Rosa, Los Banos, Visalia, Chico, Redding, and Sacramento.

10.1.4 PHASE II REPORT WORKSHOPS

The Phase II Report, outlining the selection process for the Preferred Program Alternative, was released in December 1998. In January 1999, the Program held five public workshops about the report. Workshops averaged about 40 participants each, and were held as far north as Red Bluff and as far south as San Diego. Other public workshop cities included Lodi, San Jose, and Visalia.

10.1.5 MULTI-CULTURAL PUBLIC OUTREACH

Because of California's diverse population, public outreach efforts are designed to reach minority communities. These efforts recognize that in each cultural and ethnic community, the messages about the Program, the methods for dissemination, and the approaches to soliciting involvement and input differ significantly.

Notices about the March 1998 Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR release and the public meetings were placed in several ethnic media outlets, such as Asianweek, Los Angeles Sentinel, Oakland Post, La Opinion, El Sol, and La Voz De La Frantera. These efforts were duplicated with the release of the December 1998 Phase II Report and the June 1999 Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR.

Throughout the development of the Program, program staff met with a number of stakeholders, representing minority and multicultural business, government, agriculture, social services, and industry, to discuss their interests relating to the Program. The Program overview fact sheet was translated into Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese. Notices regarding the availability of these translated documents and public meeting notices were sent to statewide media outlets that target multi-cultural communities. The fact sheets also are available on the Program's website.

10.1.6 SPEAKERS BUREAU/COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

Since the beginning of the Program, CALFED representatives have spoken at more than 100 formal conferences and meetings sponsored by various stakeholder groups and agencies. In addition, the Program hosted several informal meetings with individuals and small stakeholder groups. As part of an organized CALFED Speakers Bureau program, the presentations allowed discussions about the Program and made written materials and audiovisual elements available where appropriate to increase outreach effectiveness.

A partial list of the organizations and conferences to which the Program has provided formal presentations includes:

- Agro-Business Annual Conference
- American Society of Civil Engineers
- American Water Works Association, Cal-Nevada Section
- Association of California Water Agencies
- Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- California Association of Nurserymen
- California Chamber of Commerce
- California Groundwater Association

- California Science Teachers Association
- California Water Clearinghouse
- California Water Law Conference
- Commonwealth Club of California
- Continuing Legal Education Conference
- County Supervisors Association of California
- Delta Protection Commission Ecological Indicators Workshop
- Environmental Water Caucus
- Interstate Council on Water Policy
- League of California Cities
- Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- Mid-Pacific Region Water Users Conference
- Mojave Water Agency
- Orange County Water Committee
- Regional Council of Rural Counties
- Restoration Roundtable
- Sacramento River Preservation Trust
- Sacramento Valley Westside Canal Association
- Save San Francisco Bay Association
- San Francisco Estuary Project Implementation Committee
- Shasta Alliance
- State Water Contractors
- Southern California Area Governments
- Southern California Water Committee
- Three Valleys Municipal Water Agency Symposium
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Innovations Conference
- Water Education Foundation
- Water Forum
- Water Reuse Association of California
- Water Policy
- Western Water Policy Review Advisory Commission

10.1.7 EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS/DIRECT MAIL

To help educate the public on the multiple issues and objectives associated with the Program, an extensive library of educational resources was developed. Materials such as Program newsletters, progress updates, fact sheets, brochures, a conference exhibit, and slide shows and videos, are routinely distributed to the public and made available at workshops and presentations.

The Program was a co-sponsor of a public television documentary, "Setting a Course for the California Bay-Delta." This documentary aired on various public television stations in California, including Sacramento, the Bay Area, Riverside, and San Bernardino. The 60-minute program provided a history of the Bay-Delta, a discussion of the Program effort to solve the problems in the system, and an explanation of why this issue is important to Californians. The documentary was developed and produced by the Water Education Foundation, a nonprofit educational organization. Other co-sponsors and participants in the documentary included stakeholder groups and CALFED agencies.

From the Program's inception, a database was compiled of interested public and group participants identified through various public outreach events and meetings. To date, the Program's mailing list exceeds 6,000 names of people throughout the state interested in Bay-Delta activities. About every 6 weeks, some form of written material is sent to this list, describing Program aspects or soliciting public involvement. Since 1995, thousands of copies of written materials about the Program have been distributed to interested groups and individuals throughout the state.

In January 1999, the Program debuted a 10-minute video about the Phase II Report. A limited number of copies are available for public presentations.

The Program also routinely submits articles to stakeholder organizations, such as the Southern California Water Committee, for publication in their regular newsletters.

10.1.8 MEDIA CONTACTS

Information about the Program has been publicized to hundreds of media outlets throughout California. Regular mailings of news releases, meeting and milestone announcements, and Program updates were sent to water and environmental reporters covering Bay-Delta and related issues. While most of the releases are for English readers, the Program also has issued releases to Armenian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese newspapers, as well as to publications that serve primarily African-American and Native American readers.

The Program's managers and staff have conducted hundreds of interviews with reporters from both print and electronic media from around the state. Program managers, CALFED agencies, and stakeholder representatives also briefed the editorial boards of several major daily newspapers: Bakersfield Californian, Chico Enterprise Record, Contra Costa Times, Fresno Bee, Los Angeles Times, Redding Record Searchlight, Sacramento Bee, San Francisco Chronicle, and the San Jose Mercury News.

Several formal media events were coordinated to recognize Program milestones. The first event, held on December 15, 1995, recognized the first anniversary of the Bay-Delta Accord and featured presentations from the Program's state and federal member agencies. Phase I completion and the release of the three proposed alternatives were the focus of a September 3, 1996 event. A similar event was conducted for the release of the March 1998 Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR. At both events, BDAC members and several stakeholders joined state and federal agency representatives to brief reporters. On December 18, 1998, the Phase II Report was officially released after a press conference that featured speeches by then-Governor Pete Wilson and Secretary for the Interior Bruce Babbitt. The Phase II Report identifies the framework of the Preferred Program Alternative. A Framework for Action, released on June 9, 2000, outlines future steps for the Program.

10.1.9 LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS

The Program has maintained regular liaison with members of the U.S. Congress, California State Legislature, and appropriate subcommittees and local governments throughout the state. Staff visited Washington, D.C., in November 1995, June 1996, and October 1997 to brief key legislators as well as the Program's agency personnel. Staff also testified before several legislative committees, including the Congressional Subcommittee on Water and Power Resources, the California Senate Agriculture and

Water Committee, and the California Senate Appropriations Committee. Additionally, staff offered extensive input into the process of drafting SB 900. This bill later was passed by California voters as Proposition 204, the "Safe, Clean, Reliable Water Supply Act," which provides, among other things, funding and support for the Program's activities and goals.

10.1.10 Project Public Information Line/Project Website

The Program established an information hotline, (916) 654-9924, and a toll-free number, (800) 700-5752, to encourage public input and involvement. The information hotline is updated regularly, and a response system ensures expedient followup to questions from interested members of the public and groups. In addition, the Program developed a web site at **http://calfed.ca.gov** that contains Program information, technical documents, and public information materials. The website is a source for public information officers of stakeholder organizations, who can download current information and distribute these materials to their audiences.

10.1.11 NEPA/CEQA Notices

A Notice of Intent/Notice of Preparation (NOI/NOP) for the original programmatic EIS/EIR was issued in March 1996, and a supplemental NOI reflecting the expanded scope of the EIS/EIR, including the MSCS, was issued in August 1997. The Notice of Availability for the March 1998 Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR was posted on March 16, 1998. The Notice of Availability for the June 1999 Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR was posted on June 25, 1999.

10.1.12 Multi-Species Conservation Strategy Plan Scoping Meetings

Additional scoping meetings were held regarding preparation of the MSCS. The MSCS is designed to promote long-term habitat protection as well as recovery of threatened and endangered species in the study area.

Five scoping meetings were held in 1997—in Redding, Sacramento, Los Banos, Irvine, and Berkeley—to solicit input from the public and stakeholders concerning the elements and scope of the MSCS.

No public meetings were held specifically for the MSCS since 1997. Public outreach was achieved primarily through either the Ecosystem Restoration Work Group or the Assurances Work Group and BDAC meetings.

10.1.13 Public Comment Letters

Program efforts to solicit public involvement and input resulted in more than 1,500 letters from private citizens, businesses, and public agencies as well as several thousand form letters and postcards. In addition

to the more than 400 spoken comments at the 17 public hearings, the Program estimated that more than 10,000 individual comments were received on the March 1998 Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR. These comments were important to development of the Preferred Program Alternative and modifications to Program elements. More than 1,400 comment letters were received regarding the June 1999 Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR, in addition to several hundred form letters and postcards. The Program estimates that approximately 10,000 comments were received on the June 1999 Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR. These comments were reviewed and many were used to correct or modify this Final Programmatic EIS/EIR. Please see the Response to Comments publications for documentation of these comments.

10.1.14 SCIENTIFIC REVIEW PANEL

A scientific review panel was created, hosting eight nationally recognized scientists with broad expertise in landscape ecology, fisheries and aquatic biology, physical processes, and terrestrial and wetlands ecology. The panel was formed to assess and evaluate the scientific validity and rationale of the scientific concepts contained in the Ecosystem Restoration Program.

A 4-day workshop, held from October 6 through 9, 1997, allowed a facilitated panel discussion with the Scientific Review Panel, which resulted in written recommendations to the Program for refining the Ecosystem Restoration Program. Members of the public were invited to attend, and to provide verbal and written comments on the process. After their workshop, the Scientific Review Panel submitted recommendations to the Program about the Ecosystem Restoration Program. A summary of these recommendations can be found on the Program's web site at **http://www.calfed/events/ scientific_review. html**.

10.1.15 BROMIDE PANEL

Since analyses indicated that the Preferred Program Alternative could profoundly affect bromide concentration (a potential carcenogenic) in drinking water supplies from the Delta, the Program assembled a panel of independent, nationally recognized scientific experts to deliberate and provide relevant recommendations. Panelists were collaboratively chosen by members of the Water Quality Technical Group. The panelists areas of expertise included chemistry of DBP formation, source control, health effects of DPBs, water treatment, and drinking water regulation development. The panel met on September 8 and 9, 1998, and published its report in November 1998. The complete report of the Bromide Panel is contained in the Water Quality Control Program Plan to the Programmatic EIS/EIR.

10.1.16 DIVERSION EFFECTS ON FISHERIES TEAM

The Diversion Effects on Fisheries Team (DEFT) was formed in February 1998 to evaluate the technical issues related to diversion impacts on fisheries. DEFT members include stakeholders and representatives from member agencies. Since it was formed, DEFT has met regularly to evaluate the likelihood of fisheries recovery under the three alternatives presented in March 1998, and to develop modified alternatives that would recover fish species. DEFT developed a list of seven entrainment losses or other effects that needed to be reduced, as well as eight programmatic actions to maximize the chances of a through-Delta conveyance meeting the Program purpose. These lists are summarized in the December 1998 Phase II

Report. The agencies continue to meet regularly to discuss and analyze the potential effects on fisheries from water project operations.

10.1.17 BAY-DELTA ADVISORY COUNCIL

The BDAC was established in May 1995 under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Formed to assist Program leaders, the council consists of 31 stakeholder representatives appointed by then-Governor Wilson and President Clinton, through Secretary of the Interior Babbitt. BDAC members came from diverse backgrounds and represent water districts and utilities, environmental organizations, the California Farm Bureau, Indian tribes, environmental justice interests, business, local government, energy, and sport fishing organizations from throughout the state. The group of citizen advisors initially were commissioned to help define problems in the Bay-Delta system, assure broad public participation, comment on environmental reports, and advise on proposed solutions.

In October 1998, consultants conducted interviews of most BDAC members and some Program staff to evaluate the effectiveness of the council and its work groups. In all, 44 people were interviewed to assess the role and effectiveness of the council and its work groups in advising the Program on key policies and Program components. The results of the evaluation were presented to the BDAC at its January 1999 meeting. Among the highlights of the consultant's report:

- The BDAC should focus on three critical issues during 1999: (1) reaching agreement on the staged approach to the Preferred Program Alternative, (2) resolving the complex issues of Program governance, and (3) financing the Program.

- The BDAC should continue a regular schedule of meetings through 1999, about half of which should be held outside Sacramento. BDAC deliberations should focus on a narrowed set of Program policy topics. To obtain the greatest benefit from these sessions, stakeholder and BDAC panels as well as facilitated break-out groups should be used.

- Certain BDAC work groups should be retired and others restructured to develop alternate, task-focused public venues for input on specific Program components. Some of these public meetings should be convened in conjunction with BDAC meetings.

- CALFED Policy Group members routinely should be included at BDAC meetings to strengthen communication and interchange between the groups.

- The BDAC's role should be clarified vis a vis a public input process, such as the Ecosystem Roundtable. Participation guidelines for BDAC members in 1999 should be adopted to supplement those adopted in November 1996.

The BDAC met regularly through 1999 and early 2000. Chair Mike Madigan and Vice-Chair Sunne McPeak submitted a recommendation on the CALFED Solution to Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Hayes and Secretary for Resources Mary Nichols in a letter dated May 24, 2000. The recommendation suggests that CALFED commit to making the analyses that are needed to: (1) develop and better refine the CALFED Solution early in the implementation process, (2) assure a carefully considered balance and integration among goals that compete for limited water and land resources, and (3) establish the ground rules and boundaries that will govern implementation of the CALFED Solution. The letter will be part of a formal submittal from the BDAC to the CALFED Policy Group.

10.1.18 BDAC Work Groups

Six subgroups to the BDAC provide input into specialized areas of the Program. Each subgroup holds public meetings to study specific Program areas. As a result of the BDAC consultant's findings, some of these work groups have been retired or restructured.

Water Use Efficiency Work Group. The seven-member Water Use Efficiency Work Group addressed policy issues related to efficient water use and water demand management. Categories considered by the group included urban water conservation, agricultural water conservation, water recycling, and temporary or permanent land fallowing. This work group has been retired.

Key questions of the work group included:

- What general approach is most appropriate to implement water use efficiency measures—regulatory, market, or a combination?
- How can water use efficiency be structured to complement the other water supply components of each alternative?
- What is the appropriate level of effort for water use efficiency measures in each alternative, and how should the level be set?
- Should water use efficiency measures be specified in alternatives, or should a target level of reduced demand be specified and the selection of measures left to water users?

The work group produced summaries of each of these issues for the BDAC to promote a better understanding and consideration by the full BDAC. Products developed by the group have been critical in Phase II development of the Preferred Program Alternative.

Although the BDAC work group is retired, other work groups have formed to focus on specific areas of water use efficiency. An Urban Water Use Efficiency Group is established, and plans for a Water Recycling Work Group are underway; these groups are not BDAC work groups, but their meetings are open to the public.

Ecosystem Restoration Work Group. This work group's primary focus was to identify and develop options to address policy issues related to developing an effective ecosystem restoration strategy for the Program. In light of the consultant's report, the work group was suspended. The group is still in existence but has not met since early 1999.

Finance Work Group. This group was retired. The six-member work group met regularly since April 1996 to identify key financial issues and problems that must be addressed for the Program to succeed. The work group also examined a range of alternative ways to address these issues and problems that could lead to building a workable consensus solution. Public discussions about overall finance issues continued at BDAC meetings. These discussions focused on spending priorities.

Governance Work Group. This work group was formerly named the Assurances Work Group. The Governance Work Group has been reconfigured to include a BDAC co-chair from the business community and has appointed additional BDAC members to the work group. Previously, the Assurances Work Group focused on identifying the assurance needs for each Program element and the ways in which

those assurances could be provided. The Governance Work Group focuses on one of the assurances issues—the governance structure (institutional and decision-making arrangements) to implement the CALFED Program over the long term.

The Governance Work Group will meet on an as-needed basis while the governance proposal is being developed. The work group reports to the BDAC on its recommendations and comments regarding CALFED governance.

Water Transfers Work Group. This work group was instrumental in helping develop the Program's water transfer framework, including identifying issues and constraints, and developing potential solution options. The work group was particularly helpful in developing the concept of a water transfer information clearinghouse.

In early 1999, this work group was retired, and many of its functions were assumed by multiple groups focused on specific Stage 1 implementation projects. These groups are comprised of agency representatives, water users, and environmental community representatives. These groups are participating in formulating actions during Stage 1 implementation, such as quantifying and defining carriage water, reservoir refill criteria, third-party impacts, and the role of the public in overseeing a transfers clearinghouse.

Watershed Work Group. This work group was formed by the BDAC in summer 1998 and was instrumental in developing the Watershed Program Plan. The group has a very broad-based membership, made up of representatives from public agencies and local watershed interests, and is now providing advice to the BDAC and the CALFED agencies on how to implement the Program in Phase III.

Ecosystem Roundtable. The Ecosystem Roundtable is a stakeholder forum established as a subgroup of the BDAC. Members of this group represent a cross section of stakeholders interested in and affected by habitat restoration activities in the Bay-Delta system.

Meeting on a quarterly or as-needed basis, the Ecosystem Roundtable provides advice and recommendations to the BDAC and the Program on funding and coordinating existing and anticipated state and federal habitat restoration programs.

Delta Drinking Water Council. The Delta Drinking Water Council was formed in fall 1999 to advise the BDAC and the CALFED agencies on adaptations to the CALFED Drinking Water Improvement Strategy. Under the scrutiny of the Council, a combination of actions and studies will be developed and performed to drive important decisions on additional measures or sets of measures that would be most appropriate to meet CALFED's drinking water quality objectives.

10.1.19 GROUNDWATER OUTREACH PROGRAM

Appropriate and effective groundwater management will be essential to the success of the Program. As part of the Storage and Conveyance elements, the Program is looking to facilitate additional conjunctive use and groundwater banking opportunities; this could be one way to help maximize the overall water supply and protect groundwater resources. The Program initiated a groundwater outreach component to help identify and address stakeholder concerns about groundwater use and management, with special emphasis on conjunctive use projects.

The Program contacted and met with dozens of individuals—including private citizens, water managers, water district board members, and elected officials—to learn about local concerns regarding conjunctive use programs and to determine which entities would be interested in participating in a locally controlled conjunctive use program. The Program also conducted workshops in both the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys to present the status of the groundwater program, and to solicit additional comments and concerns regarding conjunctive use.

As a logical extension of the outreach program, the Program formed a Conjunctive Use Advisory Team. The team is made up of stakeholders and representatives of member agencies. The team has been meeting regularly since September 1998 to develop a strategy to facilitate locally run conjunctive use programs that address third-party impacts and other concerns. The team has a set of four goals:

- To refine and complete the principles for carrying out conjunctive use projects to meet Program objectives.
- To identify the most significant impediment associated with conjunctive use programs.
- To develop solutions for each impediment.
- To identify potential pilot projects and facilitate their development.

10.1.20 CALFED Tribal Outreach

There have been a series of efforts to consider Native Americans and their concerns in the CALFED process; these efforts are summarized in this section. As the CALFED process evolved and the concept of a solution area developed, additional efforts were made to communicate with tribal groups. These efforts initially took the form of letters notifying tribal groups of the availability of the June 1999 Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR and of meetings in which they were invited to participate. All California tribes were contacted before the June 1999 Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR was distributed.

As early as 1996, Reclamation contacted the California Native American Heritage Commission for advice regarding which Native Americans in the Delta should be contacted. (There are no federally recognized tribes in the Delta.) In June 1996, Reclamation sent letters to the 12 individuals identified by the Commission. One person responded and asked Reclamation to provide notice to two additional Native Americans. No other responses were received from this inquiry. As the CALFED process evolved, CALFED agency representatives initiated communication with tribal groups within the solution area, in addition to the contacts in the Delta.

CALFED met with and provided briefings to tribal representatives on several occasions:

- Two briefings at regional tribal meetings in April and May 1999.
- A multi-agency and multi-tribal consultation in September 1999 attended by 10 tribal representatives.
- A presentation at the Seventh Annual Tribal Environmental Conference, sponsored by the EPA's Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) in October 1999.

- A presentation at the Bureau of Indian Affairs Regional Tribal council in December 1999.
- A presentation at a tribal governments' meeting in February 2000.

Tribal communication efforts accelerated after the EPA's RTOC discussed the CALFED Program at its April 1999 meeting. CALFED briefed RTOC members and discussed how to best encourage tribal participation. As a result of this effort, follow-up briefings were conducted at the RTOC May 1999 meeting and with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Central Agency policy committee.

In July 1999, the Department of the Interior appointed the representative for the Tribal Caucus of the RTOC to the BDAC. Tribal representatives also regularly attended various policy group and work group meetings.

CALFED staff mailed notices to more than 100 tribal representatives throughout the state, notifying them of the availability of both the March 1998 and June 1999 Draft Programmatic EIS/EIRs.

Communication with tribal groups intensified after the release of the June 1999 Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR. In June 1999, the Phase II Report was sent to all federally recognized California tribes. At least three letters were sent in spring and summer 1999, inviting tribal groups to participate in the CALFED process by commenting on the Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR and by continuing to attend meetings. Approximately 15 tribes have followed up on these invitations. Key issues are tribal representation in CALFED governance and funding for tribal participation in water management activities.

In November 1999, the CALFED Policy Group approved $100,000 for tribal participation in the CALFED process. In January 2000, a Request for Proposals (RFP) for CALFED Tribal Participation and Outreach Grant was sent to tribal governments. An informal work group of federal agency and tribal representatives was established, and all California tribes were invited to participate. Based on those discussions, CALFED identified several areas related to increased tribal participation in the CALFED process that formed the basis of the RFP:

- Develop and compile information about, or an inventory of, specific tribal resources that may be affected by potential CALFED actions.
- Facilitate increased tribal attendance and participation in CALFED meetings and work groups.
- Facilitate enhanced outreach and coordination between CALFED agencies and participating tribes.
- Ensure that participating tribes play a key role in educating other affected tribes about the CALFED process and coordinating tribal input to the CALFED Program.

The deadline for submitting proposals was March 31, 2000.

As future projects are identified that invoke specific environmental documentation, consultation with Indian tribes will take place on a government-to-government basis if a potential effect on Indian trust assets is identified. CALFED will follow the Federal Government's policy regarding government-to-government relations as spelled out in President Clinton's Executive Order of April 29, 1994. If projects or activities are proposed for an area that contains a reservation or rancheria or any Indian trust asset, consultation will take place early in the planning process.

10.2 AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

Public and stakeholder involvement is important, but the Program also sought involvement of all interested and participating federal and state agencies. To achieve this, the Program formed several subcommittees and teams, in both formal and informal meetings, to ensure agency involvement. Interagency teams were important in bringing the technical expertise of the agencies into the planning process, and in ensuring that the appropriate agency staff reviewed and provided recommendations at each step. The agency involvement programs interacted with and complemented public outreach efforts, and in many ways paralleled the public groups that were formed:

- CALFED Policy Group
- Public Affairs Group
- Operations Coordination (Ops) Group
- CALFED Technical Teams
- CALFED Impact Analysis Teams

10.2.1 CALFED POLICY GROUP

The CALFED Policy Group is the decision-making arm of the Program. Since February 1996, the group has met monthly to review the Program's progress and deliberate on key issues identified by Program staff and the policy. Members include representatives from each of the CALFED agencies (see list in Chapter 1).

10.2.2 PUBLIC AFFAIRS GROUP

Public information officers of CALFED agencies and interested stakeholder groups meet to coordinate public involvement efforts and ensure broad dissemination of Program messages. This group is responsible for ensuring that ample opportunities for public involvement from a wide and diverse cross section of interests are available. The group meets periodically to provide input to Program staff on communications and public information strategies.

10.2.3 OPERATIONS COORDINATION GROUP

The CALFED Framework Agreement, along with the Principles of Agreement, established the CALFED Ops Group and defined the group's tasks and responsibilities.

Monthly meetings of the Ops Group started in August 1994 and are open to the public. Co-chaired by Reclamation and DWR, representatives include staff from the USFWS, NMFS, EPA, DFG, and SWRCB. Deliberations are conducted in consultation with water users, environmentalists, and fishery representatives, and recommendations are made directly to the Program.

10.2.4 CALFED TECHNICAL TEAMS

Several specialized teams provide technical expertise to Program managers.

Agency Ecosystem Restoration Technical Team. This team provides analysis and recommendations on specific focused issues relating to the Ecosystem Restoration Program. The team is convened as often as needed to address specific issues. This team is made up of agency technical experts.

Levees and Channels Technical Team. This team provides technical advice to the CALFED Technical Systems Analysis Unit relating to levees and channels. This team consists of agency and technical experts.

Storage and Conveyance Technical Team. This team is an informal group consisting of the quarterly Storage and Conveyance Workshop attendees. The group is primarily made up of agency experts; however, the public has not been excluded from attending the publicly noticed meetings. The group reviews and comments on modeling issues. In addition, modeling results are posted on the DWR website for review by agencies, stakeholders, and the public.

Water Quality Technical Team. The team has approximately 200 members. Members represent agencies, stakeholders, local government, industry, and academia. The team is divided into subteams, which discuss specific water quality issues and provide scientific and technical advice to the Program. The team meets about every second month.

10.2.5 CALFED IMPACT ANALYSIS TEAMS

The Program established several multi-disciplinary teams composed of Program staff, agency personnel, and consultants. These teams prepared the affected environment and environmental consequences components of the technical reports. These teams met weekly from March through September 1997 and focused on the environment, economic analysis, flood control, water quality, hydrology and water management, and fish and wildlife.

The revised impact analyses presented in this document were completed by Program staff and consultants, who used the information supplied by these teams as the foundation for their revisions.

10.2.6 CALFED AGENCY REVIEW TEAM

The CALFED Agency Review Team (ART) was comprised of Program and agency staff charged with identifying deficiencies in the March 1998 Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR and the June 1999 Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR, and making suggestions about how to resolve those deficiencies. ART recommendations were used by consultants and Program staff when preparing the Final Programmatic EIS/EIR.

10.3 FUTURE CALFED ACTIONS

It is anticipated that future lead agencies, responsible agencies, and stakeholder local agencies, such as water districts, will rely on the Programmatic EIS/EIR as they consider subsequent actions. As appropriate, subsequent actions will be subject to alternative analysis, environmental review, and permitting decisions before they are implemented.

Where to Find Program Public Outreach Information

- Program web site: **http://calfed.ca.gov**
- Toll-free public information telephone line: 1-800-900-3587
- CALFED News, EcoUpdate, and fact sheets are available from:

  CALFED Bay-Delta Program
  1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
  Sacramento, CA 95814
  916-657-2666

- Bay-Delta Advisory Council and other public meetings (see Section 10.3.1)

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