

**Meeting Summary – June 19, 2002**  
**California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee**  
**Water Supply Subcommittee**

**Attendance**

Subcommittee members and alternates in attendance: Steve Hall, Gary Bobker, Barry Nelson, Tom Zuckerman, Dave Fullerton (Tim Quinn), Alan Zepp (George Fraser), Richard Denton (Greg Gartrell), Lloyd Fryer (Tom Clark)

***The meeting focused on the following agenda items:***

- CALFED Water Management Project Implementation: Update on Process for Developing Common Assumptions
- Delta Wetlands Storage Project (Action: Review and Recommendation to CA Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee)

The following provides a summary of the major discussion points presented in the meeting.

**Developing Common Assumptions**

- A set of common assumptions is being developed to provide a common reference for analyses of CALFED actions included in the ROD. Developing a set of common assumptions will improve efficiency of performing analyses, will be important for addressing regulatory requirements (NEPA, CEQA, Clean Water Act Section 404), and will provide input for evaluating projects to establish a federal interest as defined in the Federal Principles and Guidelines for Evaluating Water Resource Projects.
- The initial scenarios to be investigated using the common assumptions are: 1) existing conditions for CEQA 2) future without projects for NEPA, and 3) stage 1 actions prior to the implementation of any storage projects.
- A workgroup is being established to help develop common assumptions and project descriptions. The workgroup will consist of federal, state and local agency staff and consultants.
- Work has progressed by developing a draft assumptions document applicable to Stage 1 and existing conditions. Work being performed in the CALSIM II benchmark studies (to be completed in mid-august) will aid in establishing the common assumptions.
- The sub-committee will have an opportunity to review the common assumptions. Permitting agencies will be included in the future.

**Delta Wetlands Storage Project**

- DWR presented findings of the In-Delta Storage Draft Report as well as a draft work plan for future work. The schedule for review of the draft report is as follows: 1) BDPAC review on June 27, 2002; 2) Public review and comment by end of June

2002 (reports are available on the CALFED web page); and 3) Science review by end of July 2002.

- Potential benefits include: CVP/SWP operational flexibility; improved flow releases, export timing and water quality for fishery benefits; storage space for EWA; and storage and water marketing capabilities.
- Issues requiring additional work include: engineering design criteria and cost; further definition of water supply benefits; water quality evaluations; environmental mitigation; and economic feasibility.
- Staff recommendation includes: completing CALFED Science Panel review; summarizing public comments; holding public/stakeholder meeting; and finalizing and implementing FY 2003 work plan. The objective of the workplan would be to provide necessary technical information to support a decision on initiating negotiations with Delta Wetlands on a re-engineered project by July 2003 (subject to available funding).
- The subcommittee commented on the need for information to compare storage projects to one another in order to make investment decisions. However, a potentially significant advantage of Delta Wetlands is that the project could be implemented relatively quickly. While better information on benefits and costs of other storage projects will be available in a year, complete information may not be available for several years. Future decisions on Delta Wetlands may need to weigh the adequacy of information on storage alternatives with the advantages of early implementation if the project is pursued.
- A presentation was given showing the relationship between funding and project schedules. Uncertainty in funding availability presents a significant challenge in managing the storage investigations. If the 2002 State water bond is passed by voters in November or increased federal funding is received, the technical analyses described in the draft FY 2003 work plan should be completed on schedule.
- It was agreed that future studies should be done expeditiously, but the studies need to be thorough. The study needs more analysis of water supply benefits and a better accounting of project costs. Decisions also need to be made on cost allocation.
- Delta Wetlands Properties, Inc. would like to see a high priority placed on the project, and to have the future plan focus on the feasibility of the project rather than design details. Ducks Unlimited also provided a statement of support for the project, noting the operational flexibility provided by the project and the importance of the project as a near term solution to water supply reliability while providing excellent habitat for water fowl.
- Delta Wetlands Properties, Inc. recommended hiring a facilitator to help guide the process. They also requested quarterly reporting to maintain accountability.

- The subcommittee agreed that accountability of the project schedule is important.
- The subcommittee agreed to proposition to accept the draft work plan. Still reserve right to comment on work plan. The subcommittee was undecided about the proposition to have a facilitator for the project.

**Future Meeting**

July 24, 2002

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Bonderson Building

Hearing Room 102 A

901 P Street

Sacramento, CA

Draft Agenda Items:

- Status reports on major storage and conveyance projects
- Other agenda items to be determined