

Workshop Announcement

EVALUATING THE FIRST FOUR YEARS, AND SCIENTIFIC NEEDS FOR A LONG-TERM EWA

**September 8 – 9, 2004
California Bay-Delta Authority
Stanford Room/Conference Center
650 Capitol Mall, 1st floor
Sacramento, California**

Background

The California Bay-Delta Authority will host a 2-day workshop on September 8-9 to examine the first four years of the Environmental Water Account (EWA) and discuss issues related to a longer-term EWA. This workshop will replace the salmon and delta smelt workshops that have been held in late summer of previous years. Material presented at this workshop will be used to develop conclusions and recommendations to be presented to the EWA Technical Review Panel (Panel) in November 2004.

Two assumptions underlie the design of this workshop: 1) There is a need for, and the Panel will be receptive to, a comprehensive view of the first four years of EWA; and 2) A longer-term EWA is likely, and the scientific needs for that program should be identified and presented to the Panel. Numerous considerations will go into the decision of whether and how to continue with EWA. However, the EWA's scientific underpinning will be a critical part of the decision process and thus the September workshop will focus on science.

Workshop Purpose

1. To examine the first four years of the EWA and assess its operations and benefits to fish populations and the water community.
2. To attempt to place the relative contribution of the EWA in the broader scheme of fish protection and restoration (including CVPIA, ERP, regulatory standards, etc.)
3. To identify scientific questions and information needs that must be considered when designing the structure and function of a long-term EWA.

Workshop Products

The EWA Science Advisors will prepare an interpretative workshop summary for submittal to the Panel. The summary will be reviewed by agency and stakeholder representatives and submitted to the Panel by mid-October, 2004. Agency biology, operations, and planning staff may also send summaries of their presentations to the Panel.

EWA Workshop Agenda: Day One

September 8, 2004

0815 – Welcome and introduction to the workshop – Johnnie Moore, CBDA

Introduction: How was EWA conceived, and how is it different now?

0830 – The EWA as a component of CALFED's ecosystem protection and water supply reliability programs – Patrick Wright, CBDA.

0845 – The EWA as envisioned in the ROD – Dave Fullerton, MWD

The operational EWA – the first four years

0900 – Evolution of strategies and practices for acquisition, storage, and conveyance – Curt Spencer, DWR

0915 – What affect did the EWA have on water project yields and supply reliability over the first four years? Curtis Creel, DWR

Evolution of strategies and practices for use of EWA water

Salmonids:

0930 – The basis for salmonid decisions: the conceptual model for the effects of water management – Pat Brandes, FWS

0945 – Making decisions: The evolving decision tree and the information gathering/dissemination process, Sheila Greene, DWR

1000 – 1015 Break

1015 – Actions taken over the first four years and their effects on salmonids and their habitats: examples, analytical methods, results, and conclusions – Jim White, DFG

Delta smelt:

1035 – The basis for decisions and making decisions: the conceptual model and decision tree for the effects of water management on delta smelt – Kevin Fleming, DFG

1055 – Actions taken over the first four years and their effects on delta smelt and its habitat: examples, analytical methods, results, and conclusions – Victoria Poage, FWS

Stakeholder perspectives on the first four years of EWA Implementation

(Moderator: Zach Hymanson)

1115 – The environmental community – Spreck Rosekrans, Environmental Defense

1125 – The urban water community – Steve Macaulay, California Urban Water Agencies

1135 – The agricultural water community – Brent Walthal, Kern County Water Agency

1145 – The in-Delta water community – Richard Denton, Contra Costa Water District

1155 – Discussion and questions from the audience

Note: Each panel member will make a 5-7 minute presentation and allow a few minutes for questions from the audience.

1215 –1315 Lunch

Implementation and Coordination Issues Among Environmental Water Programs

1315 - Fish actions across seasons in the face of uncertainty – Roger Guinee, FWS

Coordination between EWA and other Environmental Water Programs:

1335 – Introduction - Roger Guinee, FWS

1340 – EWA – Victoria Poage, FWS

1345 – b(2) – Nick Hindman, FWS

1355 – Water Acquisition Program (b(3)) – Dick Jewell, FWS

1400 – Environmental Water Program – Campbell Ingram, FWS

1405 – Conclusions on coordination among environmental water programs – Roger Guinee, FWS

1415 – Additional opportunities upstream and geographic allocation of assets: Delta versus upstream – Roger Guinee, FWS

Technical issues coming out of the first four years

Salmon:

1430 - Relationship of DCC gate operations to losses of juvenile winter-run at the Delta facilities - Alice Low, DFG

1445 – What are the benefits of present uses of EWA water in the Delta for salmon – Pat Brandes, FWS

1500 – 1515 Break

1515 - Suitability of tagged Coleman late fall Chinook as surrogates for juvenile spring-run emigrants – Bruce Oppenheim (NOAA Fisheries) and Erin Chappell (DWR)

1530 – Genetics of Central Valley Chinook – Sheila Greene, DWR

1545 – Winter Chinook modeling: Review of progress and applicability for evaluating the benefits of the EWA – Steve Cramer, SP Cramer Associates

Delta smelt:

1600 – Evaluation of the Shoulders on VAMP as an action for delta smelt protection – Zach Hymanson, CBDA and Larry Brown, USGS

1615 – The emerging delta smelt life history model and the implications for EWA – Bill Bennett, UCD

The overall EWA

1630 – Science and the EWA – A technical perspective from outside the EWA community – Larry Brown, USGS

1700 – Discussion, questions and answers

1800 – Informal discussions continue at local establishment

EWA Workshop Agenda: Day Two

September 9, 2004

0845 – Welcome and Program Review for Day Two – Johnnie Moore, CBDA

Panel - Technical issues emerging from the EWA's first four years

(Moderator: Johnnie Moore)

0900 – Agency perspective – Russ Bellmer, FWS

0910 – EWA Science Advisors' perspective - Wim Kimmerer, Tiburon Center

0920 – Outside Perspective – Larry Brown, USGS

0930 – EWA Technical Review Panel perspective – Kenny Rose, LSU

0940 – Panel discussion and questions from the audience

Note: Each panel member will make a 5-7 minute presentation and allow time for questions. The panel members will address the following questions in their presentations:

1. Can we characterize and quantify the benefits of the EWA on delta smelt and salmon?
2. Can we identify scientific information gaps that would have helped in the allocation and evaluation processes?
3. Can we identify monitoring, research, and analysis that would help fill the information gaps?

1000 – 1020 Break

The potential long term EWA

1020 – Need, rationale, and overview of a long-term EWA Program – Jerry Johns, DWR

1040 – The 2004 CVP and SWP Operations Criteria and Plan (OCAP) and the role of EWA – Ann Lubas-Williams, USBR

1100 – An introduction to the delta smelt risk assessment matrix – Victoria Poage, FWS

1120 – Discussion and Questions from morning session

1200 –1315 Lunch

Panel: Perspectives on Science Needs for a long-term EWA

(Moderator Johnnie Moore)

1315 – EWA Science Advisors, Wim Kimmerer, Tiburon Center

1325 – CALFED Science Program – Zach Hymanson, CBDA

1335 – The Management Agencies – Jim White, DFG

1345 – The Project Agencies - Curtis Creel, DWR

1355 – The Environmental Community – Tina Swanson, The Bay Institute

1405 – The Water Community – BJ Miller, San Luis and Delta-Mendota WA

1415 – Panel discussion and questions from the audience

Note: Each panel member will make a 5-7 minute presentation and allow time for questions. The panel members will discuss the science practices and principles needed in a potential long-term EWA.

1445 – 1500 Break

Next steps

1500 – Implementing agency plans to provide scientific support to a potential long-term EWA - Perry Herrgesell, DFG

1515 -Science Program plans to provide scientific support to a potential long-term EWA - Johnnie Moore and Zach Hymanson, CBDA

1530 – Discussion, questions and answers

1600 – Participant discussion of key issues to present to the EWA Review Panel's November meeting.

1630 - Adjourn