

CALFED OPERATIONS COORDINATION GROUP
October 24, 2001 MEETING NOTES AND ACTION ITEMS

Review of September 26 meeting notes

No revisions were made to the September 26, 2001, CALFED Ops meeting notes.

Announcements

The future Pre-Meeting Teleconference Calls were cancelled. Subsequent Pre-Meetings will be handled through an email of the draft agenda to the agency representatives who will respond by email or voice mail.

EWA Review Workshop at Ryde was discussed.

Rescheduling the next meeting was discussed.

Nigel Quinn had a scheduling conflict and was unavailable today. His presentation will be rescheduled for the next meeting.

The following handouts were provided at the meeting:

1. CALFED Operations Briefing Package; October 24, 2001; John Leahigh; DWR
2. Winter-run Chinook, Steelhead, and Spring-run Chinook Salmon Update; October 24, 2001 ; Bruce Oppenheim; NMFS
3. Sacramento Splittail and Delta Smelt Update; October 24, 2001; Dan Buford; FWS
4. Draft WY 2002 Operations Plan; October 24, 2001; Paul Fujitani; USBR
5. New Melones Study Comparisons; Peggy Manza; USBR
6. The First Annual State of the EWA Report; September 2001: Tina Swanson; TBI

Tier III

The need to identify the Tier III process was discussed. The Operations Group is awaiting the Science Panel's written report on Tier III. The Operations Group will use the Science Panel's recommendations develop the process. For the next meeting, a draft of the Operations Group thoughts on Tier III will be prepared. Dave Fullerton will prepare a white paper on Tier III identifying the problems and possible solutions. The white paper will be distributed to the Operations Group and the Operations Fishery Forum.

SWRCB

El Dorado County Water Agency has filed suit against the SWRCB for imposing Term 91 in the recent order amending Decision 1635. This litigation could raise many of the same issues that might otherwise have been considered in Phase 8 of the Bay-Delta Water Rights Hearing.

CCRC Farms, owner of Mandeville Island in the Delta, filed Application 30416 in December 1994. The application seeks direct diversion of 2,600 cfs and storage of 116,000 acre-feet and a maximum annual use of 330,000 acre-feet. The CCRC application was held in abeyance while the Delta Wetlands applications were pending. Now that Delta Wetlands has been permitted, they have elected to move forward with their application. The application has not yet been noticed to the public.

The SWRCB has scheduled a workshop on December 5 to address the Narrative Salmon Doubling Objective contained in the 1995 Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan. The SWRCB is seeking information on: 1) the current status of salmon and steelhead in the Central Valley, 2) the status of existing programs to improve their natural production and 3) what actions, if any, the SWRCB should take to implement this objective.

The SWRCB will hold a workshop in Ontario on November 14 to receive comment on the proposed transfer of water from the Imperial Irrigation District to the City of San Diego. This transfer is a key component in California's plan to reduce diversions from the Colorado River.

The water level response plan required by Decision 1641 for use of the Joint Point of Diversion was extended until December 31. Use of Joint Point after this date will be contingent upon the approval of a revised plan.

Environmental Water Account Strategy for 2002

The EWA budget for 2002 will be about \$40 million; ~\$20 million State, ~12 million Federal, and ~\$6 million Tier III reserve. EWA purchases in the North and South will be dependent on the hydrology; if it is a wet or dry year. Sources of water such as Yuba, Metropolitan, Kern, Santa Clara, Feather River, and Cross Valley Exchange water were discussed.

Delta Cross Channel Gate Experiment

The Delta Cross Channel Gate experiment is on track and going well. Divers were used to remove snags. For the juvenile salmon studies, radio tagging was aborted. The fish are too small.

B(2) Accounting

The b(2) accounting is being prepared for a presentation scheduled for November 16.

Fall Installation of HOR Barrier

The HOR barrier was not involve with the recent fish kill. The Old and Middle River barriers will be breached and out in 2 weeks; the Grantline barrier will be removed 1 week later. Water levels are being monitored and modeled. Concerns with water quality and water levels were discussed.

Meeting Downstream Standards for Stanislaus Operation

A handout comparing New Melones Reservoir impacts was presented and discussed. The quick CALSIM study compared impacts of four criteria: D-1485, DFG, DFG w/ WQ, and Interim. The study showed the trends, not actual values.

OFF and DAT Update

There have been no OFF calls. There will be a DAT call next Tuesday.

Fishery Status

Salmon: A handout was distributed and discussed.

Splittail and Delta Smelt: A handout was distributed and discussed.

OPERATIONS

CVP/SWP Operations Status:

The Operations Briefing Package was distributed and discussed. State exports are expected to remain low until it rains.

Delta Operations Criteria:

Delta outflow is being targeted at 4,000 cfs this month. The Rio Vista standard is 4,000 cfs. The Contra Costa standard of 250 cl was exceeded on October 14, 16, and 17 due to local drainage. These chloride values were not in concurrence with other nearby Delta water quality measurements.

2002 Operations Plan Summary:

A draft Operations Plan for water year 2002 was distributed and discussed.

Agenda items for Next Meeting . . . December 7, 2001