JLW 5/23/96

CALFED Bay-Delta Program
KEY EMERGING ISSUES
May 20, 1996

General Water Supply

1. The alternatives do not appear to increase overall supply of water. Program must clearly show how alternatives will increase the opportunity to move, store, and use more water.

2. The issue of the integrity of the common pool concept must be addressed. Many believe that the common pool approach should not be abandoned and that any portion of flow redirected through an isolated facility would undermine concept. Others suggest that some flow might be isolated without jeopardizing the common pool provided assurances are iron-clad.

3. Area of origin concerns must be considered as alternatives are proposed and analysis of impacts conducted.

Ecosystem Restoration

1. The Program needs to expand watershed management and actions as part of the overall effort.

2. Clarify and elaborate the Program's vision for ecosystem restoration. Provide additional definitions, goals and objectives. There needs to be a fully developed Ecosystem Restoration Plan which is part of all the alternatives.

3. The Program should more explicitly show how it is treating the need for increases in critical Delta outflow and the need for additional instream flows for the benefit of fish and wildlife. This should be explicit in the Ecosystem Restoration Plan.

4. Ecosystem restoration will entail changes in current land uses and configurations. Resulting impacts to existing habitats and current economic uses of those lands must be predicted and throughly analyzed.

5. Program needs to address the concerns of commentors who believe that the Program fails to provide benefits to other areas aside from ecosystem restoration in core and essential actions. Benefits in system vulnerability, water quality, and water supply reliability need to be brought into better focus.

Water Quality

1. The alternatives need to clarify how each will seek to obtain the best source of water for end users' needs. Public health requirements must be explicitly addressed as part of the assumptions which guide the alternative development.

2. Water quality improvements and benefits achieved by the specific alternatives should not be based on a concept that mere dilution of pollutant elements will satisfy the objective of improving water quality.

3. Alternatives must clearly express how each will address salt and chemical recirculation problems now associated with Delta water.

4. Reduction of pollutants at the source should be a core action.

5. The Program needs to address the San Joaquin drainage issue.

6. Program must address potential water quality impacts of various facility and non-facility proposals. Common pool proposal may have water quality impacts to south of Delta users; isolated facility may have impacts to in-Delta users. Any alternative which degrades Delta water quality must not be considered.

7. Degradation of water quality when transported through the Delta affects the ability of urban agencies to recycle water.

8. Disinfection by-products resulting from bromides in Delta water is a concern.

9. Improve and augment water quality actions in all alternatives.

Conveyance

1. Dual and through Delta protect Delta water quality. Explain how an isolated facility be formulated to protect quality in the Delta.

2. Regional flood control issues need to be described in all conveyance options.

3. Need to analyze seismic vulnerability.

4. Discuss isolation of drinking water for dual conveyance.

5. Discuss water transfers and potential impacts.

6. Discuss the need to free up Delta constraints before storage can be effective.

Storage

1. Discuss expanding existing storage as a high priority (raise dams).

2. Prioritize conjunctive use first, then groundwater banking.

Water Use Efficiency

1. Land retirement elements of alternatives must be reconsidered. Current ranges in alternatives could have major redirected impacts and therefore not meet solution principles. Need new thinking with regard to fallowing vs. retirement; potential for third-party impacts, and a re-evaluation of overall acres proposed as part of willing seller buy-out program.

2. Needs to be stronger theme and part of every alternative.

3. Need to recognize difference between long-term conservation and shortage measures.

4. Water use efficiency needs to be preserved as a local implementation item.

System Vulnerability

1. Many parties expressed support for an enhanced levee stabilization program.

2. A greater level of levee stabilization needs to be implemented (PL 99 Standard) in each alternative.

3. Flood control measures in the North Delta need to be included in all alternatives.

Institutional Guarantees and Assurances

1. Program needs to develop guarantees so that the ecosystem actions will be effective.

2. Program needs to develop the mechanisms to link the Program components together in ways which ensure that all parties will eventually achieve the desired benefit even while one component is staged before another component.