PAT: I RECOMMEND WE MOVE THE TWO BRIEFINGS (REFUGE AND PROSPECT ISLAND) TO PRECEDE THE CONSIDERATION OF THE COMMENT LETTER TO CALFED. THE BRIEFINGS WILL BE SHORTER THAN ANTICIPATED; PUBLIC CAN LEAVE IF THEY WANT.

Chairman's Report/Executive Director's Report: Thursday, July 22, 1999

1. Call to Order/Attendance.

PAT: Call on Debby

2. Public Comments.

PAT: This is the time for public comments on items NOT on tonight's agenda. Are there any public comments?

3. Minutes of the May 27, 1999 Meeting.

PAT: Are there any corrections to the Draft minutes of our last meeting?

Needs: MOTION, SECOND, and VOICE VOTE.

4. Chairman's Report.

Tonight's Agenda: Regarding Agenda Item # 11, the Proposed North Delta National Wildlife Refuge, the research and preparation for the environmental document is behind schedule, so there will not be a briefing on socio-economic issues tonight. Service staff will be making a shortened presentation.

I would like to reorder items on the Agenda, so Items #11, briefing on the Proposed North Delta National Wildlife Refuge, and #12, Briefing on the Prospect Island Restoration Project, will precede Agenda Item #10, Comments on the CALFED revised Draft Environmental document.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Thursday, September 23, 1999 at 6:30 p.m. in the Jean Harvie Community Center.

Fisherman's Cut. Staff has alerted us that there are some on-going problems in the Fisherman's Cut area of Contra Costa County; the waterway between Bradford Island and Webb Tract. Several large groups of "stuff" have been stored on floating barges at three locations by three different persons. Two of the persons were previously located in San Francisco Bay. We have asked that the San Francisco Bay Commission ensure that

persons, and their floating junk, be located in legal mooring sites, and not just evicted from San Francisco Bay. They have agreed and I hope we will be able to develop a solution to the existing problems here in the Delta by having all agencies work together on a solution. (Refer to Supervisor Canciamilla if in attendance)

5. Commissioner Comments/Announcements.

PAT: Are there any Commissioner comments and announcements?

6. Attorney General's Report.

PAT: Dan Siegel was called out of town on a family emergency and could not find a replacement; there is no report from the Attorney General. We have a note from him about his absence.

7. Executive Director's Report.

Mailing: Lori's memo about Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup Program.

Handouts: Update on CALFED grants/amendments; updated Legislation memo, draft comment letter to CALFED.

Since Last Meeting:

Agricultural Easement Workshop at the Grate Valley Center Conference.

Delta Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee

Toured the State/Federal Flood Center

Attended a three day tour of the Bay and Delta sponsored by the Water Education Foundation.

Attended meeting on Bradford Island/Fisherman' Cut Issues.

Delta In-Channel Islands: The CALFED Category III grant request for funds to install the alternative shoreline protection was not funded; funds may be available in the Fall; the Wildlife Conservation Board may be interested in funding some of the costs.

Contract with Teale Data Center: The contract has been refined and is now in place; thanks to Commissioner Sanders for helping oversee the contract specifications.

CALFED:

North Delta Flooding: Meeting yesterday; developing scenarios for solving the regional flooding problem. Looking at dredging; bypasses; and using an island for a retention area. North Delta will follow South Delta.

South Delta: Staff has presented scenarios to the Policy Group who recommended omission of one of the three water control structures. This matter is under discussion and will be proceeding toward preparation of a new environmental document in the near future.

As Hoc Recreation Group: A new group, with participation from DB, DPR, Delta Protection Commission, members of the recreational boating community, marina operators and anglers have been meeting with CALFED staff to discuss recreation issues. The group hopes to prepare ideas for implementation as part of the CALFED program, or individual projects.

ALSO: Lori has attended: Roundtable and Governance Work Group meetings. The most recent BDAC meeting was in Southern California, so we did not attend.

Natural Gas Pipelines in Peat Soil: The Delta sits atop rich natural gas fields and is crossed by many natural gas pipelines. Many of the older pipelines that are located under peat soils are now closer to the surface than may be appropriate. Staff is communicating to the PUC, which regulates new pipelines, that solution to this situation should not rest with the farmers, but is a larger issue that should be addressed by the pipeline owners and managers.

New Flyers from Ducks Unlimited: DU has recently published two new pamphlets on Wood Ducks and easement programs.

8. Pending Projects Memo, Pending Category III Projects Memo, Legislative Update Memo.

9. Briefing on CALFED Category III Grant Applications (1999 Funding).

PAT: Call on Margit and Lori.

MARGIT: In addition to the mailed material, Lori has prepared two supplemental memos: one regarding amendments to the Category III grant contracts considered by the Ecosystem Roundtable earlier today, and an update on legislative matters. Please note that SB 750, the legislation requested by the Delta Protection Commission to ensure that the new City of Oakley and other new cities in the Primary Zone also conform to the Delta Protection Act was approved in Assembly Committee on Local Government and was sent to Assembly Appropriations Committee on the 13th.

MARGIT: Lori prepared a memo describing the projects recommended for funding in the most current round of grant submittals--Agenda Item #9. There was about $18 million in the current round of funding, and more than half was designated for projects in the Delta area. Phase II, Construction, of the In-Channel Island Project did not get any funds. More funding for habitat enhancement on the water side of the levees along Georgiana Slough was recommended. No acquisition project were recommended.

PAT: Are there any questions of staff?

NO ACTION.

11. Briefing on Proposed Environmental Document, Including Detailed Socio-Economic Analysis, of the Proposed U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service North Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

PAT: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff will brief the Commission on the status of the environmental document for the proposed North Delta National Wildlife refuge, and the public hearings. Staff is not prepared to discuss the detailed socio-economic analysis of the proposed refuge. The last briefing on this matter was January 1999. John Castellano, Biologist and Planner with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is here to make a presentation and update the Commission on the planning process for the proposed refuge. Members of the public can make comments at the conclusion of the presentation, please give a card with your name to staff.

MARGIT: You have received a copy of a letter tonight from the Yolo County Farm Bureau stating they do not support the creation of a new refuge.

JOHN CASTELLANO.

PAT: Any questions for Mr. Castellano?

PAT: Any public comments?

PAT: Any Commissioner Comments?

PAT: Directions to staff; NO ACTION.

12. Briefing on the Prospect Island Restoration Project.

PAT: Staff from the Army Corps and Department of Water Resources are here to update the Commission on the proposed project to restore tidal wetland habitat on Prospect Island. This is an independent project proposed by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Water Resources on land owned by the Bureau of Reclamation. Our last briefing on this project was June 1995. After completion, the project is proposed to be part of the North Delta National Wildlife Refuge managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Please welcome Lina Hsia (Shaw) from the Corps and Katie Wadsworth from Department of Water Resources.

LINA HSIA.

PAT: Are there any Commissioner questions regarding the Presentation?

PAT: Are there any public comments?

PAT: Are there any Commissioner comments?

PAT: Directions to staff?

NO ACTION.

10. Consideration of Comments on the Revised Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the CALFED Program.

PAT: CALFED has released their Revised Draft Programmatic EIR/EIS. Unfortunately, the 90 day comment ends the day of our next meeting in September. The Commission could review the draft letter prepared by staff and reviewed by the CALFED Subcommittee and agree to send that letter, or the Commission could schedule a special meeting in August (August 26); OR review the letter again at the September meeting either hoping that the comment period is extended, or knowing that we would miss the mandated comment period.

PAT: Call on MARGIT.

MARGIT: Thank you Mr. Chairman, the staff report you received in the mail includes the Commission's comment letter on last years Draft document, the cover letter regarding the Revised Phase II Report released last December; and the Executive Summary of the RDEIR.

Knowing that the Commission may want to submit comments within the comment period, staff has reviewed the Revised Draft and the 12 technical documents for changes and to not differences from the last draft EIR/EIS. The letter passed out tonight starts with the letter sent last year, and notes changes in the current draft of the environmental document. You have two versions: one with all the proposed deletion and additions; and one with those changes incorporated.

I have added a section at the beginning which notes four general comments. These are: concern with the large acreage of agricultural in the Delta land proposed for retirement as part of the program; the lack of any planning at the programmatic level for recreation, even though the document indicates there will be impacts to existing recreation and should include new opportunities for recreation; the need for local input and oversight of the implementation of the program; and the need for a governance package that will ensure that the mitigation measures, and polices in the DEIR will be carried out by the program.

The general thinking behind the proposed comments was reviewed by the CALFED Subcommittee on Monday; they reviewed this draft of the letter, via fax sent yesterday at the end of the day.

I would be pleased to answer any questions.

PAT: Are there any Commissioner questions of staff?

PAT: Are there any Public comments?

PAT: Are there any Commissioner comments?

PAT: Directions to staff.

Needs MOTION; SECOND; and VOICE VOTE.

13. <u>Briefing on Strategic Planning Process.</u>

PAT: I asked Commissioner McGowan to work with staff on this matter. I understand there is a handout and an update...

Commissioner McGowan: Staff and I have met twice to review the directions from the State, and several strategic plans prepared by other State agencies. Due to the extension of the Commission's sunset date to 2010, I think it would be extremely timely and helpful for us to sit down and try to answer some key questions about the Commission and its mission:

Where are we now?
Where do we want to be?
How do we get there?
How do we measure our progress?

I suggest that staff schedule a special meeting to discuss these issues.

PAT: Any questions of Commissioner McGowan or staff?

PAT: Directions to staff.

NO ACTION NEEDED; PROCESS IS ALREADY PART OF THE PLANNING PROGRAM.

14. <u>Adjournment.</u>