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Notice of Public Meeting
California Bay-Delta Authority, CALFED Bay-Delta Science Program
Science Symposium on Environmental and Ecological Effects of Proposed Long-term Water Project Operations

Meeting Date and Location: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., June 19 - 20, 2003
California State University, Sacramento
University Union, Redwood Room
6000 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95819

Purpose of Public Meeting:

1. Provide a forum for balanced and open discussions of several key environmental and ecological factors affected by water project operations. These discussions will aim to further our understanding of how water project operations and water management activities fit into a larger context of natural and anthropogenic factors affecting populations of fish species of concern and their habitats.
2. Pursue a common understanding of the state of knowledge and important assumptions and uncertainties associated with the effects of water project operations on several key environmental and ecological factors. Work to clarify how changes in these factors can contribute to effective environmental management of the Delta and upstream project areas.
3. Provide managers and policy makers a synopsis of the information presented during this Symposium, and describe how this information could apply to modifications of existing management practices as well as decisions on future CALFED projects.

The Symposium will begin with descriptions of the ecological context within which the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) water operations occur. Next, research scientists will discuss the state of knowledge associated with several scientific issues related to water project operations. Scientific issues considered will include:

- Upstream flow fluctuations and barriers to fish migration.
- Direct and indirect SWP and CVP fish mortality.
- The Vernalis Adaptive Management Plan (VAMP) and Delta flows.
- X2, outflows, and influences of habitat variability vs. stability.

Summaries of the scientific information and its implications for managers will be presented at various times over the two-day Symposium. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

This Symposium is NOT to critique the environmental or regulatory documents associated with the Operations Criteria and Plan (OCAP) or South Delta Improvement Program (SDIP). The Symposium will not judge these documents or any proposed regulatory actions, nor will the Symposium serve as a public comment forum for presentation of these documents or proposed regulatory actions.

Background:

The US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and the CA Department of Water Resources (DWR) are working together to complete the environmental documentation for two major water operation projects: 1) the OCAP for the SWP and CVP and 2) the SDIP. The OCAP is a detailed description of existing SWP and CVP facilities and their proposed long-term operations. The SDIP is a collection of projects aimed at improving water supply and environmental conditions in the South Delta. The draft biological assessment for OCAP is expected in May, while the draft EIR/S for SDIP is not expected until September 2003. Together, these documents will provide a detailed assessment of proposed long-term water operations, the environmental impacts of these projects, and the effects these projects will have on fish species of concern, including winter-run, spring-run, and fall-run Chinook salmon, central valley steelhead, delta smelt, and splittail.

For More Information: *Please forward this to other colleagues, affiliates, associates and staff.*

- Registration for the event is not required. For more information, please contact Kristen Honey at (510) 622-5686 or kh@rb2.swrcb.ca.gov.
- A written summary of the Symposium will be prepared. Interested parties not able to attend the Symposium should contact Kristen Honey after July 7, 2003, for a meeting summary and/or further information.
- If you need reasonable accommodation due to a disability, please contact Pauline Nevins, California Bay-Delta Authority Science Program at (916) 445-5511, TDD (800) 735-2929.