

Charge for 2004 EWA Technical Review Panel

The Lead Scientist for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program is responsible for evaluating the Environmental Water Account (EWA) at the end of every water year. To meet this obligation, the Lead Scientist assembled a standing panel of technical experts (EWA Technical Review Panel) who have not been involved in EWA implementation.

EWA Technical Panel reviews in each of the first three years focused on: 1) the scientific information underlying actions taken, 2) the incremental changes in the way decisions were made, and 3) the technical basis for those decisions. In contrast, the year-four review will focus on two topics: the first four years as a whole, and continuation of the EWA. As in previous reviews, the 2004 review will focus on technical aspects of EWA planning and implementation.

The purpose of this independent review is to evaluate and comment on: 1) the technical basis of results and conclusions from EWA operations over the first four years, 2) the technical information and tools applied in planning for EWA program continuation, and 3) the science priorities and commitments proposed for the continuing EWA program. This review is not intended to yield judgments about the success or failure of the EWA program, nor to obtain a specific Technical Panel recommendation as to whether the EWA should continue past year four.

Before and during the November 2004 workshop, the EWA Technical Panel will receive written reports and oral presentations from the management (DFG, USFWS, and NOAA-Fisheries) and project (DWR and USBR) agencies, and from the Lead Scientists or his advisors. All of this information will provide input to, but not constrain, panel deliberations.

I. Charge for review of the first four years of EWA implementation

The Panel's charge is to evaluate and comment on the technical information, analyses, results, and conclusions from the first four years of EWA implementation. The Panel should consider these results and conclusions given the program goals, the tools for analysis and decision-making, and the constraints imposed by regulations, resources, and methods of acquiring and using water. Specific questions the panel should consider, include:

- Does the information, results, and conclusions presented provide a thorough understanding of EWA effects on water supply, water project conveyance and yields, and the water transfer market? If not, what other information and analyses are needed?

- Does the information, results, and conclusions presented provide a thorough understanding of EWA effects on individuals and populations of at risk fish species? If not, what other information and analyses are needed?
- Has the information and knowledge of EWA effects made its way into the subsequent use of water assets to protect at risk fish species?
- Are the agencies' showing good progress in responding to previous Panel recommendations?
- Are the efforts to coordinate and integrate EWA with other programs increasing the ability of EWA to achieve its goals? If not, what additional efforts does the panel recommend the agencies pursue?
- What uncertainties and limitations remain in understanding the effects of the first four years of EWA implementation?

II. Charge for evaluating EWA program continuation

The panel is asked to evaluate and comment on the appropriateness and adequacy of: 1) the technical tools and information used in planning for the continuation of the EWA program, and 2) the science priorities and commitments proposed for the continuing EWA program. Specific questions the panel should consider, include:

- Are the agencies using technical tools (e.g., models, analytical and assessment techniques) that are appropriate and adequate for developing detailed and informed proposals for a longer-term EWA program? If not, what additional technical tools are recommended?
- What are the priority questions and issues that should be addressed in the next three years to help inform decisions about the features and scope of a longer-term EWA?
- Will the science priorities and commitments for research and monitoring proposed by the implementing agencies improve our abilities to evaluate the effects of a continuing EWA program?
- Are the science practices and principles proposed for the continuing EWA program sound and sufficient? If not, what additional practices and principles are recommended?
- Are there additional considerations or uncertainties that should be addressed to ensure the agencies obtain and use the information necessary to making informed decisions about a longer-term EWA program?