



Science News

News from the CALFED Science Program



**Crisp November
air and returning
rains bring
color to a
marina Sunset**

Workshop Highlights Governance Principles for the Delta

Participants in the October 12 CALFED Science Program workshop discussed governance principles to be considered by the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force charged with developing a vision for the Delta.

Workshop panel members were John Kirlin, Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force; Tim Hennessey, Chesapeake Bay Program; John Shurts, Columbia River Basin; Brent Walthall, former chief consultant to the Senate Agriculture and Water Committee; Judy Innes, University of California, Berkeley; and Jim Mayer, Little Hoover Commission on CALFED. CALFED Lead Scientist Michael Healey moderated the workshop.

The panel members discussed that in designing governance for Delta Vision, it is first critical that all parties agree to the shared Vision. Conflicting goals and values need to be reconciled with clarity around functions, purpose, and decisions. The Vision should identify the public agencies and assets needed for its achievement, with shared goals highlighting the need for multi-agency cooperation. The Vision should define a process for the agencies to identify individual goals and performance measures so they can better understand their contribution.

Within the discussion it was also noted that it would be important to identify the Vision's governance functions clearly. The

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Lead Scientist Candidates Interviewed by Selection Committee

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program has completed its interviews of candidates to succeed Dr. Michael Healey as lead scientist.

The Selection Committee interviewed a strong pool of four candidates drawn from nationally recognized leaders in resources management science. Over the next few weeks the selection process will identify the preferred candidate and negotiate his appointment. We anticipate that the new lead scientist will be announced before the end of the year.

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CALFED Science Program

Establishing a Body of Knowledge

The CALFED Science Program's mission is to integrate peer reviewed science into every aspect of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. The Science Program is establishing the best scientific information possible to guide decisions and evaluate actions critical to the CALFED Program's success.

The long-term goal of the Science Program is to establish an unbiased, relevant and authoritative body of knowledge integrated across program objectives and communicated to the scientific community, agency managers, stakeholders and the public.

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Governance: Continued from front page

workshop participants recommended that the form of governance should follow its function. For example, it may be best to look first within existing structures and identify roles and responsibilities for established agencies. Governance systems may emerge organically from focused efforts to address particular problems among agencies that already have decision-making and implementation authority.

The workshop participants also thought a resilient Delta needs a flexible, networked governance system that uses multiple strategies and engages key players in a continuously changing environment. Joint decision-making, financing, and liability should be used by the implementing agencies wherever possible. Continuing participation by diverse players should be encouraged and opportunities for authentic dialogue created. Broad public involvement and a process for conflict resolution are also important. Continued partnerships and collaboration is critical and can be fostered through development of social capital and a strong sense of place for the Delta. If possible, a system that includes federal consistency determinations (such as used under the Bay Conservation and Development Commission) should be proposed by the Delta Vision to ensure continued federal participation.

If new legislation is drafted, workshop participants noted that it should seek the clearest expression of new roles, relationships, and responsibilities, as well as outline performance measures. This legislation should avoid setting up conflicting functions, and if authority is given to one overarching entity, it should be unequivocally removed from any existing agency. Responsibility must also be aligned with authority, and resources with goals and priorities. The legislation should also align authority and incen-

tives to create synergies, and if possible, engage the Department of Finance in the governance structure. Finally, if the legislation identifies a new governing board, it should be made up of individuals with suitable technical expertise and diverse experience rather than political connection. The board members should have a big-picture understanding of the system so there is a broader perspective for fulfilling the Vision.

Finally, it was discussed that a range of new or revised activities will need to be implemented to meet the governance needs for the Vision. Change will be resisted and progress will be uneven. By maintaining flexibility and learning from the lessons of the past, governance can help in creating a successful network for fulfilling the Delta Vision.

The report will be available on the CALFED Science Program website <http://calwater.ca.gov/science>. The webcast is available at "<http://www.visualwebcaster.com/event.asp?regd=y&id=42397>."

Delta Risk Management Strategy Authors to Address Review Panel Comments

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) and its consultants are currently addressing review comments on their draft Phase 1 Report. The Delta Risk Management Strategy (DRMS) report was completed in June 2007. This was an ambitious effort to evaluate the economic, environmental, and public health and safety risks of levee failures in the Delta and Suisun Marsh. At the request of DWR, the CALFED Science Program coordinated an Independent Scientific Panel (the Panel) that reviewed technical methods, analysis, findings, and conclusions of the Phase 1 Report. The Panel identified a number of shortcomings and potential serious problems with the report.

DWR and the DRMS authors are rising to the challenge presented by this review and have informed the CALFED ISB, who is charged with commenting on the review, that they are committed to re-writing the Phase 1 Report to address the Panel concerns. Not only do they want the Phase 1 Report re-reviewed by the Panel, they indicated they would also like to have the DRMS Phase 2 Report, an evaluation of levee risk reduction strategies, reviewed by the Panel after Phase 1 is complete. The Panel has agreed to assist the DRMS authors by clarifying review comments as needed and re-reviewing the Phase 1 Report when revisions are complete in May, 2008. A review of Phase 2, including a scope of work and schedule, is being discussed.

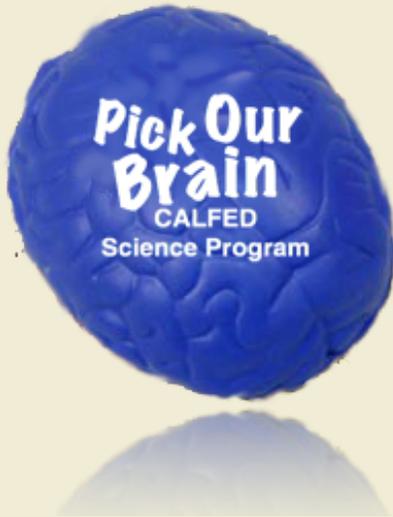
More information on DRMS and the review can be found at: http://www.calwater.ca.gov/science/drms/drms_irp.html

CALFED Science Program: No 2007 Proposal Solicitation Package

Funding limitations will prevent the CALFED Science Program from issuing a Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) in 2007. If bond funds are released before year end, the Science Program expects to announce a PSP in spring 2008. In the mean time, the Science Program plans to invest a small amount of funding for research through other mechanisms. Check future issues of *Science News* and our website at <http://calwater.ca.gov/science> for updates.

Pick Our Brain

(Formerly Ask a Scientist)



Question:

What caused (or what set of environmental conditions resulted in) the abundance increases of Delta smelt and young striped bass that were observed in the late 1990s — early 2000s? What did we learn from this short-duration boost that can be applied to the current abundance crisis?

Douglas L., Berkeley, CA

Answer:

We really do not know the answer to this question. It seems likely that

the sustained period of high flows in the latter 1990s improved conditions for Delta smelt and striped bass. The period between 1995 and 2000 was one of pretty consistent wet weather in both winter and spring. Wet weather results in high river flows, which historically have enhanced the survival and abundance of many of the estuary's key species. High freshwater flows may do many positive things for the estuary's fishes, like improve their habitat suitability, decrease the concentrations of contaminants in the water, and reduce the numbers of young fish lost to water diversions in the Delta. Other factors may well play a role and there is no obvious "fix" for the recent declines. Research continues and we hope to have a clearer answer to this question in the future.



Striped Bass (*Morone saxatilis*)

Do you have a science question about the Delta you would like answered?

To have your question considered for Science News, email the *Science News* editor Robert Ullrey at rullrey@calwater.ca.gov. You must include your: real name, postal address, and daytime phone number. If your question is selected, you will receive a token memento from the CALFED Science Program.

Upcoming Science Program Events

Independent Science Board Public Meeting

January 31-February 1, 2007

CALFED, 650 Capitol Mall, 5th floor, Sacramento, CA.

For more information, visit:

<http://calwater.ca.gov/science>.

Upcoming Events of Interest

Brown Bag Seminar:

"The Interaction among Turbidity, Salinity, and Smelt During the Fall and Winter," Dave Fullerton

November 27, 2007: Noon-1pm

CALFED, 650 Capitol Mall, 5th floor, Sacramento, CA.

For more information, visit:

<http://calwater.ca.gov>.

Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force

November 29-30, 2007

Sacramento Convention Center Room 202

1400 J Street, Sacramento, CA

For more information, visit:

<http://www.deltavision.ca.gov>.

California Colloquium on Water: "A Camera Aloft: California's Wetlands and Streams from a Bird's eye Perspective," Charles Benton

December 4, 2007, 5:30 - 7:00pm

University of California, Berkeley Wurster Hall, Room 112

Berkeley, CA.

For more information: <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/WRCA/ccow.html>.

Brown Bag Seminar:

"Delta Risk and Emergency Response," Curt Schmutte

December 11, 2007: Noon-1pm

CALFED, 650 Capitol Mall, 5th floor, Sacramento, CA.

For more information, visit:

<http://calwater.ca.gov>.