

Draft Agenda
OCAP Review Workshop
October 12 and 13, 2005
Putah Creek Lodge
UC Davis

Background

This workshop is part of a CBDA Science Program review of the science underlying the 2004 NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion on long-term operation of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project. NOAA Fisheries requested the CBDA Science Program organize an independent review of its Biological Opinion and the related Biological Assessment prepared by the USBR and DWR. (The Biological Assessment provides much of the scientific information used in the Biological Opinion.)

The role of the CBDA, specifically the Science Program, is to recruit a multi-disciplinary and independent panel of experts to conduct the review. The CBDA will also transmit relevant documents to the panel and, to the extent possible, answer any questions the panel may have by contacting staff and managers from NOAA Fisheries, the Bureau of Reclamation and Water Resources. CBDA staff will not be involved in assessing the science in the BO and other documents used by NOAA Fisheries to prepare it. The panel findings will formally go to the CALFED Lead Scientist who will forward them to NOAA Fisheries and make them available through the CALFED website

To help the communication process between panel members and agency technical staff, this two-day workshop is included in the review process. The workshop's main purpose is to provide an opportunity for the panel to hear firsthand about some of the major areas in the Biological Opinion and Biological Assessment in which scientific information was used to assess project impacts on anadromous salmonids. The time slots for the selected speakers are divided about equally into presentations and Q&A. The workshop also allows the panel members – who are from different locations around the country - to meet in executive session. As implicit in the review itself, the material to be discussed is from the Biological Assessment and Biological Opinion and their supporting documents.

The panel members have received copies of the BO and BA (and supporting material) and will be assumed to have read the material before the workshop. The October workshop is thus intended mainly to allow panel members to receive clarifications as needed to help prepare their report to the CBDA Lead Scientist. The final report will be submitted to the Lead Scientist by December 15, 2005. A public meeting will be scheduled for January 2005 at which the panel will orally present its findings and respond to questions. The panel will not be presenting any preliminary findings or conclusions at the October workshop.

The public is invited to the October workshop. However this is a technical workshop designed to stimulate information exchange among the panel members and the preparers

of the BA and BO. The panel report will be based on the documents themselves, clarifications obtained at this workshop and information from other documents cited in the BA and BO. The Q&A will be among panel members and the presenters, and accompanying technical staff. The general public will not participate in this exchange.

The CBDA recognizes that the panel is being asked to determine if NOAA Fisheries used and interpreted the best available science in preparing the BO. The public, including stakeholders, may be aware of important scientific documents that were not used in the analyses, or may suggest other means of analyzing the data. This information has to have been available during the period in which the BO were prepared – that is before 6/15/04. In the interest of learning more about additional data or analyses, the CBDA is providing time at the end of the workshop for stakeholders and others to comment on the science underlying the BO. Stakeholders and other public wanting to make brief presentations (up to 10 minutes) at the end of the workshop will be asked to submit these requests in writing on the first day of the workshop with a brief summary of their presentation. Only those presentations dealing with science issues will be heard. This is not the forum for making general statements for or against water projects or whether NOAA Fisheries made the correct jeopardy call in the 2004 OCAP Biological Opinion. (Note that due to the recent case filed against NOAA Fisheries and Reclamation, questions that bear on the lawsuit will not be answered.) The panel is not be asked to determine if the projects jeopardize the continued existence of listed anadromous salmonids – the members are being asked to determine if the best available science was used in making that determination.

Note that the following agenda may be modified in response to the panel's request for specific data, models and analyses to be discussed.

Draft Agenda

October 12

Session 1 – ESA considerations and the Biological Assessment

0830 – Consultation under the ESA – *Penny Ruvelas, NOAA Fisheries*

0920 - The Biological Assessment including project description and approach – *Ann Lubas-Williams, USBR*

1010 – Break

1030 – The biology of the affected salmonids – *John Hannon, USBR*

1130 – Lunch – panel meets in executive session

Session 2 - Upriver issues

2A Shasta/Trinity Operations and Temperature

1230 - Existing Conditions and proposed changes – *Ann Lubas- Williams. USBR*

1300 – Overview of modeling and CALSIM II – *Levi Brekke, USBR*

1340 – Temperature modeling – *Russ Yaworski, USBR*

1420 – Biological Modeling – *John Hannon, USBR*

1500 – Break

2B – Red /Bluff Diversion Dam operations

1520 – The Red Bluff Diversion Dam and its operations – *Buford Holt, USBR*

1600 – Biological issues associated with RBDD operations – *Mike Tucker, NOAA Fisheries*

2C – Developing the biological opinion on upstream operations

1630 – NOAA Fisheries’ assessment of upstream impacts – *Bruce Oppenheim, NOAA Fisheries*

1730 – Adjourn

1730 – Hosted reception, no food – open to the public

1830 – Panel departs for informal working dinner

October 13

Session 3 – The Delta

0800 – Overview of project operations in the Delta, including early consultation – *Ann Lubas-Williams, USBR*

0845 – Juvenile salmonid movement in the Delta – *Dave Vogel, private consultant*

0915 - Water movement in and through the Delta - *Jon Burau, USGS*

0945 – Water Project Operations and Salmon survival – *Sheila Greene, DWR*

1015 – Break

1035 – Assessing Delta impacts – the BA – *John Hannon, USBR*

1100 – Assessing Delta impacts – the BO - *Bruce Oppenheim, NOAA Fisheries*

1200 – lunch – the panel meets in Executive Session

1300 – The panel and all speakers reconvene to provide the opportunity for additional questions.

Session 4 – Public input

1400 – Did the BO miss important documents or analyses that were available at the time the BO were prepared? (Or what available data or analyses were left out?)

1500 – The next steps – *Randy Brown, CBDA Science Program*

1510 – Adjourn

1510 – 1630 – panel meets in executive session