

**The CALFED Science Program presents a workshop as part of:**

**A review of the science underlying the 2004 NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion on the long-term operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project - OCAP**

**October 12 – 08:30 to 5**

**October 13 – 08:00 to 3**

**Putah Creek Lodge**

**University of California, Davis**

**Davis, CA**

**Background:**

Operation of the federal and state water projects is conditioned in part by the need to eliminate, minimize or mitigate harm to listed fish species including spring and winter Chinook salmon and steelhead rainbow trout. The federal Endangered Species Act requires that projects that may jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species consult with the responsible federal agency. In this case, the US Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources respectively operate the Central Valley Project and State Water Project through a Coordinated Operations Agreement. Acting as lead agency, the USBR entered into a Section 7 consultation with NOAA Fisheries to assess the impacts of proposed changes in project operations on listed anadromous salmonids. In October 2004 NOAA Fisheries issued a biological opinion which concluded, among other things, that project operation as described in the biological assessment would not jeopardize the continued existence of the listed salmonid species.

On July 29, 2005 NOAA Fisheries requested that the CALFED Science Program review the science underlying its biological opinion. On August 24, 2005, CALFED Science Program agreed to conduct such a review, and has since established an independent panel to conduct the review. This workshop is an integral component of the review process. The Review Panel members have received and are reviewing the assessment and opinion and supporting documents. For additional information, including the NOAA Fisheries request, the CALFED Science Program response, and information on review panel members are posted at [http://science.calwater.ca.gov/workshop/workshop\\_ocap.shtml](http://science.calwater.ca.gov/workshop/workshop_ocap.shtml).

**Workshop Objective:**

The primary objective of this workshop is to provide an opportunity for the review panel members to hear directly from the agency staff (and consultants as appropriate) who worked directly on the biological assessment (BA) and biological opinion (BO) and to clarify any technical issues associated with the data, the analyses or the assumptions underlying the analyses. A secondary objective is to allow time for the panel to meet in executive session to organize its approach to the charge. A third objective is to provide stakeholders and other public attendees a limited opportunity to point out scientific data that may have been overlooked in the assessment and opinion, or different approaches to analyzing the data.

It must be made clear that this is an information gathering workshop, with the information dealing with the BA and BO and supporting documents. The panel will not be providing a summary of their

findings, conclusions or recommendations at this workshop. Their findings will be documented in a report to the CALFED Lead Scientist due December 15, 2005. The panel is expected to present its findings orally at a public meeting expected to be held in the Sacramento Area in January 2005. The final report, and the announcement of the January public meeting, will be posted on the CALFED Science Program website (<http://science.calwater.ca.gov>).

### **Format:**

The overall workshop format is intended to foster communications among the speakers (and accompanying staff) and the review panel.

- There will be several presentations by agency staff and other technical representatives dealing with important components of the biological assessment and opinion. Each presentation will include sufficient time for responses to questions from the panel.
- During the workshop questions or comments will not be accepted from public attendees.
- Attendees from the public wishing to make brief comments on data or analyses the agencies may have overlooked in preparing the assessment or opinion will be asked to make their requests in writing during the first day of the workshop. Only those speakers directly addressing science issues will be given the opportunity to speak to the panel during the last hour of the workshop on October 13.

### **For More Information:**

- Due to relatively limited space at the workshop site, pre registration is required. There is no charge for the workshop. For more information and to register, contact Randy Brown at [brown.randall@comcast.net](mailto:brown.randall@comcast.net) or at 916.961.5449.
- A draft agenda and background material has been posted to the Science Program website: [http://science.calwater.ca.gov/workshop/workshop\\_ocap.shtml](http://science.calwater.ca.gov/workshop/workshop_ocap.shtml)).
- Workshop notes and PowerPoint presentations will be posted on the Science Program website: [http://science.calwater.ca.gov/workshop/workshop\\_ocap.shtml](http://science.calwater.ca.gov/workshop/workshop_ocap.shtml) by November 1, 2005
- If you need reasonable accommodation due to a disability, please contact Colleen Kirtlan, California Bay-Delta Program at (916) 445-5511, TDD (800) 735-2929.