

Delta Long Term Management Strategy Interagency Working Group April 27, 2006

Draft Meeting Summary

The Interagency Working Group (IWG) of the Delta Long Term Management Strategy (Delta LTMS) met at the California Bay-Delta Authority in Sacramento at 10 a.m. on Friday, April 27, 2006. Purposes of the meeting were to:

- Receive an overview on the Delta LTMS—update on staffing, schedule, etc.
- Review Process Framework
- Discuss role and makeup of Management Committee
- Review Draft Charter
- Review Draft Workplan Outline
- Discuss Science Advisory Committee
- Schedule next Management Committee meeting

Delta LTMS Overview/Update

Fari Tabatabai introduced herself as the interim project manager for the Delta LTMS. She has temporarily taken over the job from Eric Nagy, who was promoted. Additionally, Fari explained that the responsibility of project management has been transferred from the Sacramento USACE District to the San Francisco District. Fari explained that new faces from the USACE will appear, but Jessica and Dan should be involved in the project throughout. They are researching sediment and developing a sediment quality database, which Dan detailed.

For the schedule, Fari projected that the study will take about six years to complete with a budget of \$7 million. Fiscal Year 06 activities will include administrative actions (convening various Committees, finalizing Charter and Framework Plan) and technical work (compiling sediment quality database and establishing science advisory committee). Fari recommended targeting sampling locations now since funding is available. Names/cards of key parties were exchanged.

Process Framework Review

Charles Gardiner reviewed the Process Framework developed in Fall 2005. The IWG reviewed and provided comments last Fall to make it final. The Framework was based largely on the structure of the Bay LTMS. One main difference is the stakeholder involvement component—Delta interests will want to be very engaged, thus the Management Committee will be broader than originally expected. It was clarified that the Executive Committee would be comprised of the heads/directors of the various agencies (which would convene quarterly), the IWG would remain as the core group of the Management Committee (to meet monthly), and the larger Management Committee would involve all of the stakeholders that want to be involved (to meet every other month or as needed). Sergio suggested convening meetings before/after others are being held to make the most of people's time; he reminded the group of the CALFED Agency Coordination Team meetings that happen every other Tuesday, and the Levees Subcommittee

meeting which take place the first Friday of each month. The next meeting will be May 5—Fari plans to present on behalf of the USACE, but Sergio will be absent.

Sue asked about the level of involvement stakeholders might want to have in directing the project—it was suggested that stakeholders in the Management Committee will be “coordinating” and not “managing” the effort. Members of the IWG urged that the Delta Protection Commission be moved to the list of State Agencies in the Agency Executive Committee from the Delta Resources Interest stakeholder group. All Management Committee meetings will be open public meetings. Charles will re-word the Management Committee description.

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Sergio reminded the group to consider the DRMS and Delta Vision processes—these two major stakeholder-driven efforts are getting much attention. Coordination between these three Delta projects will be key (and hopefully headed by CALFED). Sergio provided background on the Delta Vision process, which will evaluate and plan for water, transportation, land use, and all things related to the Delta over the next 50 and 120 years. The Executive Order for it is about to be signed. The Delta Vision will be a two-year process, after which it will become part of the California Water Plan (updated annually). Brian suggested streamlining the Delta LTMS to really tackle a specific issue since the Delta Vision will be so broad. Coordination with DRMS will be potentially more critical, since they will be on similar tracks. DRMS is on a fast track—the first report for it is due January 1, 2008. IWG members asked if DRMS will be resulting in a prioritized list of problem areas to be addressed by the Delta LTMS. Bob and Sergio will be heavily involved in the DRMS and will share information.

Action Item: Comments on the Framework to be provided to Sarah by May 8th.

Draft Charter Review

Fari and Sarah asked the group to review the language of the draft charter that was developed with the Executive Committee in mind. Commanders and chiefs of the various agencies would sign it. It was recommended to remove the words “Study Team” from the title. Revisions to the description of the Management Committee from the Framework will be transferred to the Charter. Sergio commented that this text is very similar to wording in the CALFED ROD, which may result in legal advisors to suggest agencies don’t need to sign it because they already have agreed to improve water in the Delta. It was suggested that more specific operating principles be developed. Brian commented that this is not meant to be a binding legal document; it’s more political. There was discussion of the Vision statement and it was suggested that the second sentence to the Objectives section be moved. It was also recommended to add bullets from the Objective section to the Goals section. Brian said that like the Bay LTMS, the Delta LTMS must be up-front and state that dredging must be done—it is a legitimate activity that is required to keep facilities open—signatories must agree to that basic fact to be on board.

Action Item: Comments on the Charter to be provided to Sarah by May 8th.

Draft Workplan Review

Fari and Charles explained that the workplan reflects the objectives of the Charter. The focus should be on the regulatory/technical issues.

Action Item: Comments on Workplan to be provided to Sarah by May 8th.

Science Advisory Committee

Fari asked IWG to consider who should be on the Science Advisory Committee, which should be as independent from the Delta LTMS process as possible (they will be independently funded). John Warshack, Donna Podger, Steve Bay and members of USGS were suggested. G. Fred Lee is a consultant who is very familiar with Delta water quality, but may not be sufficiently independent for the Science Advisory Committee. It was suggested to have the list of proposed scientists available for review at the first large Delta LTMS meeting. The Science Advisory Committee will determine suitable sediment testing mechanisms and protocols. Different advisors will be needed for other issues (such as fisheries).

Action Item: Suggestions for Science Committee to be provided to Fari by May 4th.

Next Meeting

Sonja reported that she has made inquiries with stakeholders that expressed interest in participating last Fall to see if they are able to attend a large stakeholder Kick-off meeting in early June. Phone calls and emails have resulted in over a dozen stakeholders committing to attending a June meeting. The ninth seems to be the day available for most, and it is just after a summit on the Delta which is scheduled for June 6-7 at University of Pacific. The IWG team appears to be available on June 9.

Action Item: CirclePoint will invite others to the June 9th meeting and determine logistics.

Participants

Fari Tabatabai, USACE
Jessica Burton Evans, USACE
Dan Specht, USACE
Brian Ross, USEPA
Sue McConnell, CVRWCQB
Philip Giovannini, CVRWCQB
Sergio Guillen, CALFED
Bob Yeadon, DWR
Charles Gardiner, CirclePoint
Sarah Layton Wallace, CirclePoint
Sonja Wadman, CirclePoint