

## **SJR TMDL Executive Committee**

April 17, 2002 8:30 - 10:00 am

### **Conference Call Meeting Notes - DRAFT**

**By Kevin Wolf**

1. The Executive Committee recommends that the Steering Committee support an extension of the Principal Investigators contracts for 90 days and whatever agreement Fred makes with CALFED about more funding for his work completing the contract administration and additional data analysis. Fred will present the proposal he and CALFED work out.
2. Stakeholders should send comments on URS's draft update to the Plan of Action timeline by April 24 for their rewrite and presentation at May 1 Steering Committee. (Kevin suggests that comments be posted to the sjr-tmdl list too.) This document should tie into the 2002 Goals and Objectives. The Executive Committee is pessimistic about pursuing a process that could lead to the funding of monitoring and pilot aeration in 2002. The timeline should be rewritten for a 2003 study program but should include sufficient time to account for the likely delays and difficulties in getting funds and contracts finalized. Fred hopes that funding can be found in 2002 to better analyze what should be included in a proposal for future monitoring and studies.
3. Mark Gowdy will talk with Barbara Marcotte on the draft scope of work for the Planning Coordinator. The ExCom hopes this document is available for Steering Committee review at the May 1 meeting. There will almost certainly be a gap between what URS is able to accomplish as the interim coordinator and when funds may be available and the selection process complete for a long-term coordinator. URS has not yet gained a final contract for their interim work and doubts in the best case scenario that they will be able to do work after June 30 without a long-term contract. The Steering Committee will use the Plan of Action timeline and draft scope of work to determine what needs to be done between now when the Planning Coordinator is on board to meet the Regional Boards 2002 deadline requirements. The San Joaquin River Group is evaluating whether they could provide some staff resources to helping fill the work gaps.
4. The Executive Committee asked Mark Gowdy to report back on whether time might be available on the Regional Board's May meeting to gain the Board's feedback on the proposed Goals and Objectives for 2002. Bill Johnston thought that Lowell Ploss (who wasn't able to attend the conference call) would take Kevin's draft document and rewrite it for presentation to the Board. He will circulate this to sjr-tmdl list before the May 1 meeting. Hopefully he will be able to draft a cover letter as well. Even if the Board cannot consider this issue until the July meeting, it will be beneficial to advance the writing of these documents. Mark Gowdy said that Board management staff will be reviewing and evaluating the draft document in the next week to gain consensus among themselves for the staff report to the board on this issue.
5. The job descriptions of the Steering Committee Chair and Vice Chair positions will be worked out between the two selected individuals and reviewed at the June Steering Committee meeting. The Executive Committee will recommend that Lowell Ploss be the new Steering Committee chair. Bob Murdoch is unable to take on the job of being the Vice Chair. The Executive Committee requested that Tom Quasebarth ask Robert Howard who

has been attending Steering Committee meetings for the City of Modesto if he would be willing to be the vice chair. (Note: Dan Hinrichs reports that Tom said he would.)

6. The Executive Committee decided to postpone until the June SC meeting on who would be the chairs of and what would be the job descriptions for the other subcommittees.
7. URS circulated a new draft set of questions for the Peer Review. Comments should be sent to them soon. Next week they will take the questions to the CALFED science team for help in prioritizing and clarifying the final set of questions. The final draft will be reviewed by the Steering Committee on May 1.
8. The ExCom asked Kevin to circulate a budget and scope of work for his involvement as facilitator and webmaster. South Delta Water Agency and Stockton will be contributing some funds to help cover these costs. The San Joaquin River Group also will likely be able to contribute to this and hopefully will decide before the May 1 meeting. There may be other stakeholders who will contribute and can provide an update at the SC meeting.
9. The Executive Committee reviewed key missing stakeholders and who would be talking with whom to encourage their attendance at the May 1 meeting.
  - a. Jay Jahangiri will work with Russ Brown to set up a meeting with the new Colonel of the Army Corp of Engineers. He will let everyone know when the meeting can happen. Bob Murdoch, Lowell Ploss, and John Herrick are also interested in attending.
  - b. Bill Johnston will ask Lowell to talk with the State Water Contractors about their involvement.
  - c. Bill will talk to the Merced Irrigation District about the load coming from upstream of Landers Avenue on the San Joaquin. The east side of the river includes land in the Merced ID service area. The new USGS data shows less flows coming from this area so the percentage of the load they contribute is decreased from what is reported in the Strawman Analysis. Still this area appears to contribute to the load. Is Merced primarily responsible or should other upstream stakeholders be involved?
  - d. Paula Landis with DWR says she will try to make the May 1 meeting.
10. The Executive Committee agreed that the Synthesis Report for the Peer Review is not a Steering Committee document but comes from Fred Lee as part of his CALFED grant. Fred will incorporate comments that stakeholders send him but will not leave out issues if he thinks they should be included.
11. The Executive Committee hopes that the Steering Committee will finalize the changes in the Decision Making Process as soon as possible.
12. Kevin will redraft the May 1 agenda and circulate it to the list soon.