

Niiya, Karen@Waterboards

From: Riddle, Diane@Waterboards
Sent: Monday, June 18, 2012 8:33 AM
To: WB-DWR-Bay-Delta; Niiya, Karen@Waterboards; Satkowski, Rich@Waterboards
Subject: Fwd: Phase 2 workshops

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>>> Gary Bobker <bobker@sbcglobal.net> 6/17/2012 11:51 PM >>>
all,

Unfortunately, I'm unable to make the Board meeting on the 19th, where the Phase 2 Bay-Delta Plan workshop format will be discussed as an informational item, and wanted to share a few brief thoughts:

1. I generally agree the draft questions are a good starting place.
2. It's unclear to me why the only options presented both involve separate panels for different groups rather than including an alternative involving one panel, where Board members can ask experts with different perspectives to answer questions focused on specific, critical points; this can work if the Board does not ask every panelist to respond, which was a problem in the Delta flow criteria proceedings. The Board should decide if it is primarily interested in presentations or dialogue.
3. It is also unclear why one option would eliminate participation of scientific experts from federal and state agencies and the other would eliminate participation of independent scientific experts. To push this to its conclusion, should there also be options eliminating participation of water user experts or NGO experts? I strongly support the inclusion of independent and agency experts in any workshop format.
4. Finally, I question the utility of a report summarizing points of agreement and disagreement. Does the Board really need to have someone help them on this rather obvious topic, given the extensive record and the fact that panelists will be submitting written materials in advance? More importantly, when expert X says the sun rises in east, and expert Y says in west - this is not a disagreement among experts. Somehow I think the time of staff and Dr. Bernstein can be used to better effect than a he said/she said product.

Thanks for considering my comments.

cheers,

Gary

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