

MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Adam Sussman, Senior Policy Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item H, March 12, 2004
Water Resources Commission Meeting

Briefing on Legislative Concept Development for the 2005 Legislative Session

Since the end of the 2003 legislative session staff have collected suggestions concerning agency issues and needs that may require legislative consideration in 2005. Beginning this month, the Department's Agency Management Team (AMG) has refined those ideas into preliminary legislative concepts. The preliminary legislative concepts are in Attachment 1.

The key dates for legislative concept development are shown in Attachment 2. In early April, Department staff will meet with stakeholders to seek feedback on the Department's preliminary legislative concepts and to discuss issues that may need to be addressed in the 2005 session. Based on continued internal refining, staff will submit preliminary legislative concepts to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) on April 15, 2004.

Upon submittal, legislative concepts are reviewed by DAS and the Governor's Office. Concepts approved by DAS and the Governor's Office will be submitted to Legislative Counsel by May 31, 2004. The deadline for submitting detailed concepts to Legislative Counsel for final drafting is July 15, 2004. The Governor must pre-session file agency bills by December 16, 2004.

The Commission has a key role in setting the policy directions reflected by the legislative concepts submitted to the Legislature. Several Commission discussions about the concepts (and ultimately the bill language) will occur prior to the December 2004 filing date. At this Commission meeting and future meetings through the end of the year, Department staff will present issues, concepts, and draft language for discussion. Staff will brief the Commission at each meeting and seek guidance on how to further develop the concepts for pre-session filing.

Staff welcome the Commission's input on the preliminary legislative concepts in Attachment 1.

Attachments:

1. List of Preliminary Legislative Concepts
2. 2005 Legislative Concept Development Schedule - Key Dates