

EDWARDS AQUIFER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE ISSUE TEAM REPORT

At the August 14, 2008 RIP meeting, the Steering Committee appointed a Science Subcommittee Issue Team to consider proposed decisions on certain Subcommittee membership issues on which consensus could not be reached at that meeting. Specifically, the Issue Team was to address two outstanding, and conflicting, motions:

1. That Susan Aragon-Long's status on the Science Subcommittee be changed to a non-voting member and that Charlie Kreidler's status be changed to a voting member.
2. That Susan Aragon-Long be directed to continue serving on the Science Subcommittee and as its chair, with authorization to participate in all discussions in which she feels she has no conflict of interest, provided she disqualifies herself from voting, and that a special rule be developed if necessary to accommodate this direction of the Steering Committee

The members of the Issue Team convened a meeting at 9 a.m. on August 22, 2008, in San Antonio. The time and place of the meeting were publicly noticed in accordance with the RIP Program Operational Rules. Present were Weir Labatt, Con Mims, Dianne Wassenich, Calvin Finch, Colette Barron, Myron Hess, Mary Kelly, and Program Manager, Robert Gulley. Issue Team member Steve Kosub was unable to attend. Other participants in the meeting were Kirk Patterson, Carol Patterson, Patrick Shriver, Steve Bereyso, Dan Laroe, and Anna Munoz.

Colette Barron chaired the Issue Team meeting. After full discussion of the issues, the Issue Team by consensus approved the following restatement of the proposed decisions and also approved the submission of recommendations, which are important aspects of the consensus reached, to the Steering Committee, as follows:

1. **PROPOSED DECISION**

The Steering Committee approves, acknowledges, authorizes, and directs the following actions—

- 1.1. That Susan Aragon-Long will continue to serve on and chair the Science Subcommittee with no change in her membership status.
- 1.2. That, in accordance with applicable Texas law and the Program Operational Rules, it is expressly acknowledged that when full consensus is not reached on any action, any abstention from voting by the chair or any other member of the Science Subcommittee does not impair or affect such member's capacity as one of the 15 members of the Subcommittee entitled to vote.

- 1.3. That the Steering Committee will appoint, at the earliest practicable opportunity, a Science Subcommittee Work Group to discuss and make recommendations on issues related to future makeup, charges, and special rules applicable to the Science Subcommittee. Such issues will include, but not be limited to, the membership of the Science Subcommittee from and after the submission of the K-charge Report, disclosure of actual and potential conflicts of interest of members, and abstention from voting.
- 1.4. That the Steering Committee interprets the Program Operational Rules as being consistent with these actions.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Issue Team submits the following recommendations for additional action by the Steering Committee.

- 2.1 **Peer Review of Report.** The Steering Committee at its September meeting formally should agree to have an independent peer review of the K-charge Report of the Science Subcommittee. The conduct of such peer review should be subject to obtaining appropriate funding for the effort. The Program Manager should be directed to recommend a contractor or entity to arrange for and oversee the peer review and to develop a proposed contract with such reviewer for consideration by the Steering Committee as soon as possible but not later than the November RIP meeting.
- 2.2. **Work Group members.** Because the issues to be addressed by the Work Group to be appointed under 1.3 above have been researched and discussed by the Science Subcommittee Issue Team, the Steering Committee should consider appointing Issue Team members to the Work Group.

Date: September 2, 2008

Submitted by:



Colette Barron
Chair, Science Subcommittee Issue Team