

**Core Actions and
Essential Elements**

CORE ACTIONS SUMMARY

This section provides a brief summary of the Draft Core Actions developed by the CALFED Program Team. The Program intends to include these actions in all alternatives. Because core actions are common to all alternatives, they are generally not described in each alternative presentation. In reviewing the Draft Alternatives that follow, readers should keep these Core Actions in mind as elements of each alternative. A summary of core actions appears below. Full descriptions of the core actions are presented in the Appendix. The Program welcomes your comments on the Draft Core Actions.

Bay-Delta Habitat Restoration

Activities	Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance 4,000 to 6,000 acres of shallow-water habitat at the most feasible sites with highest value for aquatic habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protects important habitat for anadromous and native resident fishes in the Bay-Delta
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance 500 to 1,000 acres of existing riverine habitat at the highest priority most cost-effective sites on channel islands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides valuable river-edge (riverine), shallow-water, riparian, and wetland habitat for important fish and wildlife
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include riverine elements at channel edges by modifying levee protection practices on 100 to 125 miles of the highest priority and most feasible sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protects and restores key riverine habitat elements for fish and wildlife
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance existing riparian habitat on 1,500 to 2,500 acres of the highest priority and most feasible sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides important habitat value for adjacent aquatic areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve riparian habitat by modifying levee maintenance practices on 15 to 25 percent of existing levees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protects and enhances riparian vegetation particularly on the water side of levees
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve degraded riparian habitats on 200 to 400 acres of the highest priority and most feasible sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides habitat values to adjacent aquatic areas; within-island sites supplement larger areas providing migratory bird habitat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance 100 to 300 acres of existing wetlands at highest priority sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides habitat for wildlife and migratory birds
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand wetland acquisition programs to procure 6,000 to 7,000 acres of the highest priority sites in unprotected ownership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enlarges important areas and incorporates protected areas into larger corridors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance existing upland habitat on 1,200 to 2,000 acres of the most feasible sites with highest value and connectivity to important wetlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides valuable habitat diversity and critical elements for some terrestrial species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage wildlife-friendly agricultural practices by providing funding for dissemination of literature and staffing of outreach programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides wildlife habitat while retaining agricultural operations

Activities	Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide coordination and funding to preserve agricultural land uses providing habitat on 50,000 to 60,000 acres of the highest priority sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retains valuable habitat for terrestrial wildlife
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve regulations regarding ballast-water releases through promotion and coordination of California's interests in applying federal law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces introduction rate of non-native species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve border inspection practices through staff increases at borders to more intensively apply current regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce introduction rate of non-native species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide funding to establish a rapid response program for introduced species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes early detection and eradication of invasive non-native species

Upstream Habitat Restoration

Activities	Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve flows and temperatures in upstream habitats by funding state-share of Shasta temperature control device, evaluation of Whiskeytown device, and temperature control plans for Colusa drain and Sutter Slough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protects important spawning and nursery areas for salmon and steelhead in upper Sacramento River
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain adequate spawning substrates by providing state share of funding for CVPIA provisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restores important spawning and nursery areas for salmon and steelhead
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage gravel-mining practices that protect fish habitat by funding partnerships to protect high-priority spawning and migratory areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoids further degradation of important spawning habitats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify fish passage at upstream dams and other barriers by providing state share of funding for CVPIA provisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removes significant hindrances to anadromous fish migration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify natural barriers to improve fish passage such as Eagle Canyon on Battle Creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removes natural barriers to anadromous fish migration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage appropriate livestock management for 50 to 150 miles of riparian habitats by seeking to extend and expand existing efforts by resource management agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces erosion in riparian areas caused by intensive cattle grazing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revegetate degraded riparian habitats on 2,000 to 4,000 acres of the highest priority sites in state and federal plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides important habitat value for adjacent aquatic areas

Reduction in the Effects of Diversions

Activities	Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use real-time monitoring and adaptive management by expanding existing program to monitor more species and habitat conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improves system operation to reduce fish loss at south-Delta pumping plants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install screens on unscreened in-Delta diversions with highest potential for fish loss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduces entrainment-related impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install or upgrade screens on upstream diversions with highest potential for loss of young salmon and steelhead 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduces entrainment-related impacts on young salmon and steelhead

Management of Anadromous Fish

Activities	Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modify hatchery operations to reduce effects on wild populations by promoting and funding activities such as annual tagging of a portion of hatchery fish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduces adverse effects of hatchery fish on wild populations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support a reasonable effort to provide information needed to improve regulation of commercial harvest of wild and hatchery stocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides information on improving fishery regulations to maximize protection of wild stocks

Reduction in Export Reliance

Activities	Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage use of agricultural water conservation practices through incentives, loans, or cost-sharing for voluntary implementation of efficient water management practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduces competition for Delta water supplies during drought conditions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase incentives for municipal and industrial conservation practices through low-interest loans to urban suppliers unable to afford best management practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduces competition for Delta water supplies during drought conditions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate small agencies about conservation and reclamation feasibility by providing technical and planning support to small water suppliers in Delta and export areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides information about potential for cost-effectively conserving and reclaiming water
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish incentives for conjunctive use by providing funding to reduce supply deficiencies during droughts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduces competition for Delta water supplies during drought conditions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ease institutional barriers to encourage conjunctive use where most feasible and in most need of modification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduces competition for Delta water supplies during drought conditions

Increasing Water Supply Predictability

Activities	Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate statutory and regulatory water transfer responsibilities where most feasible and highest priority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases availability of water transfers to meet water demands
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the most cost-effective planning and coordination improvements for water transfers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases availability of water transfers to meet water demands
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve operational procedures to facilitate water transfers in the highest priority and most cost-effective ways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes best use of CVP and SWP facilities for water transfers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and coordinate most feasible mechanisms for brokering water transfers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitates water transfers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage water resources data and information for the Bay-Delta system by identifying funding sources for the state share of CVPIA activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases availability of detailed data to assist water system management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify stable funding sources for long-term drought planning with districts where supply reliability would substantially benefit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces competition for Delta water supplies during drought conditions

Management of Water Quality

Activities	Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish incentives for retiring lands with the most severe drainage problems and where most cost-effective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves in-stream and Delta water quality, reduces demand for irrigation water
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand and extend existing programs to provide incentives for pollution source control on agricultural lands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves in-stream and Delta water quality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage management of riparian zones to protect water quality by funding a cooperative program in watersheds of reservoirs operated by participating water districts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserves riparian and aquatic habitats, reduces sedimentation, improves Delta water quality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage management of land uses to protect water quality by improving land use practices in watersheds of reservoirs operated by participating water districts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserves terrestrial and aquatic habitats, reduces sedimentation, improves Delta water quality

Improvements to System Reliability

Activities	Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor, evaluate, maintain, and stabilize existing levees on highest priority sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases levee reliability

Activities	Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify agricultural practices to reduce subsidence through a program to cease agricultural production adjacent to levee interiors for islands dominated by peat soils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halts decreased stability caused by continuing subsidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate techniques for beneficial reuse of dredged materials by funding a pilot program to evaluate techniques for beneficial reuse of dredged materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreases costs for dredged material disposal, levee maintenance, and wetland reclamation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an emergency levee management plan for highest priority Delta islands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corrects catastrophic levee failures more quickly, reduces damage, and speeds recovery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide funding for levee maintenance and stabilization to maintain current level of flood protection for highest priority sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves levee maintenance, increases system reliability