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Date: March 21, 1996
To: CALFED Members and Staff
From: Lester A. Snow, Executive Director *Rick B. By*
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
Subject: Draft Level of Detail and Development of Analytical Tools

Enclosed for your review are two related papers, one on the specificity of the impact analysis for the TIER 1 EIS/EIR and the other on the development of tools which will be used to conduct the analysis.

The first enclosure is Section 4 of the Level of Detail Discussion Paper that CALFED is preparing to define and document the appropriate level of detail for describing the impacts in the Tier 1 EIS/EIR. In January, you received drafts of Section 2, "Characteristics of Programmatic and Project-Specific EIRs/EISs," and Section 3, "Examples of Level of Detail for Programmatic and Project-Specific Environmental Documents," of the Level of Detail Discussion Paper.

Section 4, "Level of Detail of Analysis for the CALFED Tier 1 EIR/EIS," discusses the threshold of analysis for differentiating alternatives and, in Table 4-5, identifies the proposed level of detail of analysis for resource-specific issue areas to be addressed in the Tier 1 EIR/EIS.

The second enclosure is a draft paper entitled, "Selecting Analytical Tools and Information for Assessment of CALFED Bay-Delta Alternatives," on the proposed approach to selection of analytical tools and strategies for application of selected tools and relationships. This draft paper also includes example descriptions of analytical tools.

Please review the draft papers with an emphasis on:

- the use of and appropriateness of the proposed minimum thresholds of analysis to help guide level of detail of analysis;
- the appropriateness of the proposed level of detail for resource specific issue areas;

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

- the integration of minimum thresholds of analysis and analytical tools;
- recommendations on the most appropriate analytical tools in your area of expertise;
- suggestions of key analytical relationships that should be used for the impact analysis; and
- suggestions on ways to integrate and enhance available tools and relationships.

While reviewing the enclosed materials, please consider the geographic scope of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. Keep in mind we are preparing a programmatic rather than a project specific EIS/EIR, and that the alternatives are evolving, and as they evolve the level of analysis as presented here may need refinement.

Please provide comments on both draft papers by April 5, 1996. We anticipate that we will be meeting with agency staff to help define as well as refine the analytical tools. Accordingly, **please identify an analytical tool contact(s) for this future coordination.**

We expect to provide you with a review copy of the full level of detail discussion paper in April. Further, we will use your comments on the analytical tools paper to refine our approach and assist in the selection of analytical tools and relationships. As necessary, we will contact your designated analytical tool contact for coordination.

If you have any questions, please call me at 916/657-2666.