

ALTERNATIVE 2 - Solution Strategy: 1A, 2A, 3A, 4B - Minimum

The intent of Alternative 2 is to achieve the following solutions in the four primary conflict areas:

- **Fish and Diversions** - (A) increase fish productivity and population abundance.
- **Habitat and Land Use/Flood Protection** - (A) improve habitat quality and protect existing land use while avoiding the conversion of existing land uses to other uses.
- **Water Supply Availability and Beneficial Use** - (A) reduce demands for water diverted from the Bay-Delta system in order to reduce demand conflicts during times of the year or during hydrological cycles when competition for system supplies is greatest.
- **Water Quality and Land Use** - (B) manage water quality by managing instream water quality after discharges to the Bay-Delta system have been made.

As a minimum edge alternative, CALFED would presumably undertake the least intensive actions to achieve the solution strategy described above. Only a total of 12 actions has been identified as meeting the selection criteria for inclusion in this minimum edge alternative. The actions selected for Alternative 2 are identical to those chosen for Alternative 1.

Alternative 2 includes actions primarily aimed at improving fish productivity and population abundance. Because this is a minimum edge alternative, the actions selected to increase fish populations are geared toward habitat improvement or maintenance activities. Actions selected to maintain existing habitats include:

- Protect existing shallow habitat from erosion
- Restore preserve channel islands
- Improve and protect degraded riparian habitat

Several more proactive actions were selected for this alternative which would require changes in existing instream configurations or management practices. It is presumed that CALFED or its member agencies would implement or oversee the implementation of those actions. These actions include:

- Modify construction practices to include riverine elements
- Modify levee maintenance practices
- Manage flows in upstream habitats
- Manag temperatures in upstream habitats
- Modify passage at natural and man-made barriers to fish migration
- Install barriers to keep fish in Sacramento River

These actions are intended to improve habitat availability and quality as well as increase fish productivity and abundance.

Only a single action was selected which would address the conflict area of water supply availability and beneficial use. That action is the coordination of land uses with water supplies. This action would ensure better management of demands, but may do little to decrease the overall demand for diversions from the Bay-Delta system. Many of the actions currently identified by the Alternatives Development Committee would require more intensive involvement by CALFED or its member agencies. Due to this, the majority of the actions to reduce diversion demands were not appropriate for this alternative.

The shortfalls of this alternative in meeting the mission statement of CALFED are potentially many. The solution strategy identified for this alternative encompasses minimal actions to increase fish productivities, population abundance, or improve habitat quality. No actions were selected which would directly reduce pollutant

discharges; however, the improvement and maintenance of riparian and wetland habitats may indirectly reduce pollutant discharges.

The greatest shortfall of this alternative is the reduction of diversion demands from the Bay-Delta system. In order to be a viable solution strategy, more actions and, consequently, a more intensive effort by CALFED would be required to address the issue of supply reliability and beneficial use. Without increased actions in this area, this alternative would border on an unequitable solution.

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