

DRAFT ALTERNATIVES A - J

INTRODUCTION

The Program has combined the best elements of the 20 draft alternatives to produce 10 draft alternatives for review. The following overviews of the alternatives provide more detailed descriptions than those included in the Phase I Progress Report distributed earlier this month. Please keep in mind that these are *draft* alternatives and not final products. As with previous drafts, they are subject to change based on public and stakeholder input.

The 10 draft alternatives are the result of a consolidation and refinement of the 20 draft alternatives presented during meetings in February 1996. The 20 draft alternatives represented a broad range of potential solutions to Bay-Delta problems. We received considerable valuable written and verbal input on the "20" resulting from the discussions during the public workshop, the February meeting of the Bay-Delta Advisory Council, and meetings with CALFED agency staff. The Program staff considered this input, evaluated the alternatives against the Program objectives, looked for ways to refine the alternatives, and to consolidate similar alternatives.

The consolidation and refinement was *not* a screening process. We did not eliminate any concepts represented by the "20". The 10 draft alternatives represent the same broad range of potential solutions to Bay-Delta problems as represented by the 20 draft alternatives. Work will continue on refining, consolidation, and screening as we move towards a goal of reducing the set of alternatives to a more manageable set of 3 to 5 alternatives. Just as previous refinements have changed the form of individual alternatives, you should expect that these alternatives will continue to change. Therefore, none of the current 10 draft alternatives are likely to make it to the set of 3 to 5 unchanged.

SUMMARY TABLE AND MATRIX

To help you organize the information contained in the alternative overview descriptions, a table and a matrix are provided on the following pages. The table shows the major emphasis for each alternative.

The matrix provides more detail by highlighting each alternative's main approaches to achieving the primary objectives. Alternatives are listed in columns. The rows catalog the general approaches to resolving problems in the Bay-Delta. These approaches are grouped under the four primary objective areas: Water Supply, Water Quality, Ecosystem Quality, and System Vulnerability.

The summary table and matrix allow you to scan for draft alternatives containing actions or

combined actions of high interest. They also enable you to compare draft alternatives quickly and easily at a general level, in order to differentiate them.

ALTERNATIVE OVERVIEWS

Overviews of Alternatives A through J are provided following the summary table and matrix. The overviews provide a brief narrative summary of the 10 draft alternatives. Not every feature of the alternatives is described in these overviews. For instance, a new intake for the State Water Project at Italian Slough is used in several alternatives, but it is not specifically mentioned in the overviews. Detailed action-by-action listings of each alternative are included in Appendix B.

The overviews and the listings in Appendix B show approximate sizes for many of features of each alternative. The sizes are used only to illustrate the general concept for the draft alternative and *should not* be viewed as absolute numbers. Many of the features are described with numerical ranges that also should not be considered absolute. For instance, showing a north of Delta storage at 0.5 to 1.0 MAF does not limit the final size to that range. After analysis in Phase II of the Program, this same storage could just as easily be 200 TAF or 3 MAF.

Each alternative overview includes a map showing major features.

Core Actions

As a reminder, a core action is an action at a specific implementation level that would be included as an element of *all* CALFED Program alternatives. A listing of core actions was provided above in a previous section.

Because core actions are common to all alternatives, they are not described in each alternative overview nor in the detailed action listings contained in Appendix B. However, remember that the core actions do include significant Bay-Delta habitat restoration, upstream habitat restoration, reductions in the effects of diversions, management of anadromous fish, reduction in export reliance (demand management), water supply enhancement, increasing water supply predictability, management of water quality, and improvements to system reliability. For example, *each* alternative includes significant upstream habitat restoration such as California's cost share portion of restoration actions in CVPIA.

Essential Elements

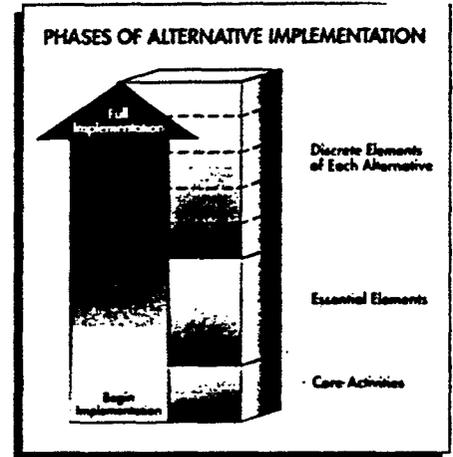
A listing of essential elements was provided above in a previous section. The essential elements are actions implemented in all the alternatives at levels higher than those represented in the core actions. For example, increased levels of demand management, more levee improvements, and more habitat restoration above the core levels of implementation are included in *all* alternatives.

The following overviews and the listings in Appendix B include the essential elements but do not specifically identify them as such.

Potential Sequencing

All alternatives can be staged over time. The individual actions included in each alternative offer many opportunities for staged implementation over short-term, intermediate-term, and long-term time frames. Staging of action implementation offers great benefits in financing the overall program in installments. Staging also works well with adaptive management by offering the potential to fine-tune the overall program solution in the future as more information becomes available.

Example sequencing diagrams are included with each alternative to show the general concept of how alternatives could be staged. Core actions are very well suited for early implementation. Many core actions could potentially be implemented prior to selection of the preferred alternative. The "essential elements" are also well suited for early funding and implementation following the core actions.



SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Following the overviews is another set of tables that provides a summary of the major actions for each of the 10 draft alternatives. These tables are organized to present actions for habitat restoration, flood protection/levee stabilization, water storage/diversion management, water supply management, and water quality management. The tables show how actions vary by alternative. See appendix B for more information on the actions used for each alternative and the potential benefits associated with those actions.