

To: Loren Bottorff
CALFED

From: Peter Standish-Lee
Michelle Lynch

Office: Sacramento

Date: November 7, 1997

Subject: Response to Comments on Gemorphology and Soils Technical Report

1. Response to Comments from Rick Breitenbach

Comment: With regard to soil salinity, selenium, and subsidence, there would be no difference between existing and No Action conditions. Each of these is currently a problem and will continue to be a problem.

Response: Disagree with the term "no difference". Although soil salinity, selenium, and subsidence are currently problems, CALFED alternatives are designed to reduce (although not eliminate) the processes causing increasing soil salinity and soil subsidence. Therefore, No Action would lead to worsening of these conditions in the future, as compared to existing conditions.

The other comments provided by Rick Breitenbach have been incorporated. These comments related to eliminating redundant discussion of impacts. As requested, where impacts would be the same across other regions, those impacts are described once and not referenced further. Selected alternatives were deleted from the report.

2. Water Use Efficiency Impacts

Although we are concerned about overstating the likelihood of impacts from mere promotion of recommended policies (as compared to direct actions), we have revised the impact analysis was revised to include potential impacts from the Water Use Efficiency Program, consistent with Greg Young's comments.

3. Tetra Tech's Comments

- a. The summary was revised to discuss the impacts according to region.
- b. No changes were made to the mitigation strategies. The level of detail of the mitigation strategies is consistent with the level of detail of the analysis.
- c. The seismic and subsidence discussions were kept in the Geomorphology and Soils report. The title of the resource topic could be changed to Geology and Soils, or Geomorphology, Seismicity and Soils to more accurately reflect the scope of its contents.

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d. The assessment methods section was condensed and revised to reflect only the approach that was feasible to use for the programmatic level of analysis.

4. Reservoir Report Impacts

a. The seismic impacts discussions in Sections 4.2.2, 4.3.2, 4.4.2, 4.5.2, and 4.6.2, include discussions of the characteristics of the faults in the example reservoir areas. This information would be more appropriately placed in the "affected environment/existing conditions" section.

b. Section 4.2.1: As written, loss of farmland is included as a construction-related impact in this section and as an operation and maintenance-related impact in Section 4.3.2. Loss of prime farmland described in Section 4.2.1 should be included in Section 4.2.2, which would be consistent with the other sections.

c. Section 4.2.2, 4th Para.: Define reservoir-triggered seismicity. How can a reservoir trigger a seismic event?

d. Comment "a" also applies to the In-Delta storage example write-up.

e. Editorial comments have been redlined in the electronic copy.

5. Watershed Impacts Report

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

f. Section 1.1.5: Perhaps a discussion of relevant watershed management regulations or plans that affect geomorphology and soils should be included in this section (e.g., relevant USFS watershed management plans).

g. Section 1.1.9, 1st Para, last sentence: Need to finish reference for watershed information.

h. Section 1.1.10, 1st Para, last sentence: Need to finish reference for watershed information.

i. Deleted references to the Delta, Bay, and CVP and SWP service areas outside of the Delta.

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

j. Section 1.1.3: The *Assessment Measures* discussion seems to “jump” around. Perhaps the first paragraph should be deleted.

k. Section 1.1.6, Bay Region, Impacts, 2nd sentence: Delete “and increased flooding”.

l. Section 1.1.6, Sacramento Region, Impacts: 2nd sentence: Delete “and flooding”.

m. Deleted references to the Delta, Bay, and CVP and SWP service areas outside of the Delta.

PSL:mgl