



CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM



March 16, 1998

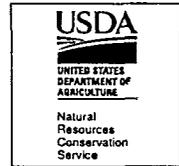
Dear Interested Parties:

Accompanying this letter is a copy of the Executive Summary of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Programmatic EIS/EIR) for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and the Phase II Interim Report, a concise explanation of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, its purposes, and the process by which we plan to proceed with the Program. This report is an appendix to the Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR which was filed on March 16, 1998, and is intended to provide an overview and summary of the Program.

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is a unique cooperative effort by fifteen state and federal agencies with regulatory and management responsibilities in the San Francisco Bay-Sacramento/San Joaquin River Bay-Delta ecosystem to develop a long-term plan to restore ecosystem health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta system. The objective of this collaborative planning process is to identify comprehensive solutions to the problems of ecosystem quality, water supply reliability, water quality, and Delta levee and channel integrity.

The Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR is a joint product of the efforts of each of the CALFED participating agencies, and represents a major step in the process toward collectively achieving CALFED's objective. It identifies twelve alternative options to achieve this objective and analyzes the environmental impacts of proceeding under each of those alternatives. Each of these alternatives includes core programs which address issues of ecosystem restoration, water use efficiency, water quality, Delta levee and channel integrity, water transfers, and watershed management coordination, as well as a range of storage and conveyance options. No decision has yet been made on a preferred alternative, and we encourage your participation in helping us shape this choice as part of the Final Programmatic EIS/EIR. Many issues that have been identified and evaluated in this document need further study and discussion, and your comments will contribute to our ability to make an informed and workable decision. In addition to the public hearings being held between April 21, 1998 and May 14, 1998, CALFED will continue to conduct workshops and public meetings to facilitate public involvement as we progress toward the final plan.

The primary purpose of the Draft EIS/EIR is to inform decision-makers and the public about the impacts the various alternatives could have on both the human and the natural environment and to evaluate how well the alternatives meet the Program purposes. Because



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
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Western Area Power Administration

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the Program is a long-term plan for the Bay-Delta ecosystem, the Draft EIS/EIR is a programmatic level planning document, focusing on the interrelated long-term and cumulative consequences of the various alternatives. Subsequent environmental review for the project specific actions involved in implementation of the Program will follow the approval of the Final EIS/EIR.

The mission of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program is to develop a long-term comprehensive plan that will restore ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta system. We encourage you to share with us your comments and suggestions on this Phase II Interim Report and the Executive Summary and help us move forward toward achieving that mission together. Enclosed with this letter is a list of the libraries where the complete Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR, including the appendices, is available. If you wish a copy of the complete Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR, including 11 appendices, please contact the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155, Sacramento, CA 95814, Attention: Rick Breitenbach, or call (800) 900-3587. Public comments on the Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR are due before the end of the public comment period on June 1, 1998.



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State of California



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CALFED Bay-Delta Program