

Water Quality Issues	When			Type			Workplan Efforts	Agency Participants
	Pref. Alt.	Final	Phase III	Elevate	Decision	Process		
There are differing opinions regarding the most effective program approach: a regulatory framework to enforce the objectives versus an incentive-based or "safe harbor" approach to encourage voluntary partnerships to reduce non-point sources.								
This element needs to be better integrated with other parts of the Program, including ecosystem restoration and water use efficiency.								
There is concern that this program element is not sufficiently aggressive or adequately developed to accomplish more than current water quality efforts.								
There are differing views on the specific drinking water quality targets as well as on the means to achieve drinking water quality objectives (providing the highest quality source water versus relying upon treatment methods). A cost comparison is also needed.								
There is disagreement over whether the program should include dilution-oriented actions.								

C-016560

Levee System Integrity Issues	When				Type		Workplan Efforts	Agency Participants
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There is concern that the cost of implementation may exceed the benefits; Program goals must be clear and alternative forms of risk management should be considered.								
Proper integration of the Levee, Water Quality, and Ecosystem program elements is essential and may require a specific management entity to assure integration. In particular, levee and ecosystem restoration objectives may be challenging to achieve simultaneously.								
Levee strengthening and the proposed design of setback levees results in the conversion of productive agricultural land. Government land acquisition and continued private land ownership must be evaluated.								
There is concern that support for the levee restoration program would wane if an isolated facility were built.								
There is concern that levee system integrity cannot be sustained if Delta land uses continue to cause subsidence; subsidence reversal should be a more prominent part of this program element.								
A major levee improvement program may require substantial dredging in the Delta and rivers, and this dredging may adversely affect water quality and sensitive fish and wildlife resources.								
The long term sustainability of levee maintenance and associated agricultural activities needs to be evaluated with particular emphasis on areas with peat soils and identification of financial and policy incentives and disincentives to maintain levees.								

Ecosystem Restoration Issues	When			Type			Workplan Efforts	Agency Participants
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The implementation strategy for ecosystem restoration must integrate resource priorities, scientific oversight, and collaborative decision-making involving local entities.								
There is concern that adaptive management decision making is essential but creates unique and difficult assurance issues. Some stakeholders believe these issues may be addressed best by new institutional structures.								
Habitat restoration actions require significant agricultural land conversion, particularly in the Delta. Efforts to reduce and avoid impacts should be included at the program and, subsequently, the project level.								
There are differing views on the likely success of restoring habitat in leading to recovery of fish populations without significant reductions in diversion effects at the export facilities and the restoration of natural delta flow patterns.								
There are differing views on the extent to which restoration priorities should include the San Francisco Bay area.								
The relative importance of toxics as an ecosystem stressor must be better understood.								
Better understanding and validation of conceptual ecosystem models will be necessary for success of ecosystem restoration measures and adaptive management.								
There is disagreement over the need for, and availability of, water to meet ecosystem restoration flow objectives.								
Further assessment is needed of the flows required for ecosystem restoration, and the variety of options to obtain these flows (including new storage, reoperation of existing storage and changes in diversion patterns, transfers, and regulatory measures).								

C-016562

Water Use Efficiency Issues	When			Type			Workplan Efforts	Agency Participants
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The program does not include a strong component of direct demand management actions such as agricultural land conversion to reduce water diversions or reduce and delay the need for storage facilities. The analysis of alternatives should include varying ranges of demand management, including reclamation, conservation, pricing, and land retirement/fallowing.								
The program must expand conservation implementation to include measures that are cost-effective from a statewide perspective but not from the local perspective; an open and active water market will do this, but only in areas where conserved water may be transferred.								
There is some disagreement over the current program approach, which emphasizes incentives and markets more than a regulatory framework.								
Processes to demonstrate efficient use through certification or endorsement by stakeholder councils will need additional refinement, stakeholder consensus, and continuing CALFED financial assistance to succeed.								
There is concern that the Agricultural Water Management Council does not provide adequate assurance of efficient use because it lacks broad stakeholder support, and the process for endorsement of agricultural water management plans is untested.								
The program is considering two water management practices -- measurement of water deliveries and volumetric pricing -- as conditions of receiving new or transferred water made available through CALFED.								
There must be assurance of strong CALFED support for programs to provide assistance with planning, financing, and implementation of local water use efficiency measures.								

<b>Water Use Efficiency Issues</b>  Analysis that shows greater potential for urban water conservation than agricultural water conservation is counterintuitive and should be supported by water balance studies.	<b>When</b>		<b>Type</b>	<b>Workplan Efforts</b>	<b>Agency Participants</b>
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Water Transfers Issues	When				Type		Workplan Efforts	Agency Participants
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In regions where conserved water may be transferred, the existence of an open and active water transfer market will provide a critical economic incentive for water conservation.								
The program must implement effective measures to protect rural economies and lifestyles from unintended transfer impacts, protect groundwater resources from transfer impacts, and facilitate and encourage instream flow transfers. This may be difficult but will be essential.								
An independent transfers clearinghouse may be necessary to provide adequate public review of transfers so they are properly regulated. There are varying opinions on the degree and type of restrictions that should be imposed on a water transfer market.								
Additional water transfers, including transfers across the Delta, may have many of the same environmental effects as existing water conveyance and diversion. Transfers policy should encourage transfers that are environmentally beneficial or benign and discourage others.								
There must be a process to examine and recommend resolution of the many technical and institutional issues currently limiting a water transfers market.								

Watershed Management Issues	When			Type			Workplan Efforts	Agency Participants
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There is concern that the Program's draft watershed management strategy is not adequately developed and does not define clear goals and objectives for CALFED.								
Watershed management efforts must emphasize partnerships among the public, local watershed organizations, and governments at all levels.								
There is concern that the program focuses too much on the lower watershed; efforts below and above the major dams must be integrated and there needs to be a long-term commitment to upper watershed investment.								
The watershed management strategy should be fully integrated with all program elements, especially those addressing water quality and ecosystem restoration.								

Storage Issues	When				Type		Workplan Efforts	Agency Participants
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Some stakeholders view surface storage as a physical assurance to avoid groundwater impacts of conjunctive management programs.								
There are concerns that storage must be financed on a strict "beneficiaries pay" basis because subsidizing the cost of water from storage would undermine a transfer market and limit implementation of water use efficiency measures.								
Some stakeholders believe that surface storage should only be considered as part of a staged alternative or in the context of linked implementation: storage would not be constructed until certain milestones had been achieved (such as in transfers and water use efficiency).								
Additional economic and environmental analysis must be completed to compare marginal costs and determine the appropriate balance among new storage, water use efficiency, and water transfers.								
Some stakeholders view new storage as essential to improving water supply reliability. Strong assurances must be developed for water suppliers due to the long lead time to develop new storage.								
Environmental or operational concerns have been raised about specific potential storage sites which may make these sites infeasible or cost-prohibitive.								
The "time value of water" concept for operating reservoirs to yield net environmental and water supply benefit must be analyzed carefully under different scenarios of operation and water year type to confirm feasibility.								
Some stakeholders believe the Program's water supply objectives should be quantified.								

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Conveyance Issues	When				Type		Workplan Efforts	Agency Participants
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Objective consideration of a new Delta channel (or isolated facility) may not be possible due to the political stigma resulting from the peripheral canal debate in the early 1980s.								
Consideration of major conveyance modifications requires significant assurances.								
There is concern over potential deterioration of in-Delta water quality if an isolated facility is built. A more thorough evaluation of in-Delta water quality impairments of each conveyance configuration is needed. In particular, there are unknowns related to reduced inflows into the northern Delta.								
The analysis on the impacts of each conveyance configuration on fish entrainment, Delta flow circulation, and drinking water needs further refinement.								
There is concern that support for the levee restoration program would wane if an isolated facility were built.								
Some stakeholders believe that an isolated facility should only be considered as part of a staged alternative or in the context of linked implementation; the facility would not be constructed until certain milestones had been achieved (such as in transfers and water use efficiency).								
Some stakeholders view an isolated facility as essential to improving water supply reliability. Strong assurances must be developed for water suppliers due to the long lead time to develop new storage.								