

ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

February 21, 1997

(Name, office symbol, room number, building, Agency/Post)

Initials

Date

1. Michelle Wong, CALFED Bay-Delta Program

2.

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REMARKS

Michelle,

There is no real, substantial guidance on how to do a 404(b)(1) alternatives analysis. The process is fairly simple in explanation, while potentially very painful in application.

Step one is to identify all of the alternatives that are practicable and substantially capable of meeting the project (program, in your case) purpose. Step two is to determine which alternative is the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (or LEDPA). The alternative that falls out of step two is what we are allowed to permit.

The steps are applied within a set of guidelines, established by EPA, as called for under Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act (hence the name "404(b)(1) alternatives analysis). Within these are found a couple of presumptions and prohibitions that must be taken into account when developing the alternatives analysis.

DO NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disposals, clearances, and similar actions

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