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## SCIENTIFIC REVIEW PANEL WORKSHOP

Sacramento Convention Center  
October 6 through 8 - Room 314-315  
October 9 - Exhibit Hall E

### PROCESS FOR FACILITATED SCIENTIFIC REVIEW OF THE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM PLAN

**The Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan.** The CALFED Bay-Delta Program has developed an Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan (ERPP) whose objective is to improve and increase aquatic and terrestrial habitats and improve ecological functions in the Bay-Delta to support sustainable populations of diverse and valuable plant and animal species. The foundation of the ERPP is that restoration of ecological processes (associated with streamflow, stream channels, watersheds and floodplains) will create and maintain habitats essential to species dependent on the Delta. Three volumes comprise the ERPP describing the visions for the ecosystem elements (*Volume I*), the visions for the Ecological Zones (*Volume II*) and the vision for adaptive management (*Volume III*).

The ERPP, like all components of the CALFED Program, is the result of an iterative process among State and federal agencies, stakeholders in the Bay-Delta system and members of the academic community. Focused input on the development of the ERPP has come from the Ecosystem Restoration Work Group of the Bay Delta Advisory Council, a federally chartered public advisory group. CALFED is accepting public comments on all three volumes during the 45 day public review period ending October 14, 1997 and will incorporate those comments into the final draft.

**Purpose of the Scientific Review Panel.** The overarching goal of the Scientific Review Panel is to assess and evaluate the scientific validity and rationale of the scientific concepts contained in the ERPP. Some of the specific results anticipated from this review process are:

- Identification of primary areas of scientific agreement and areas of disagreement;
- Assessment and evaluation of the scientific validity and rationale of the underlying hypotheses and implementation objectives embodied in the ERPP;
- Advice on the presentation and structure of the ERPP; and
- Recommendations for structuring the adaptive management strategy.

**Composition of the Scientific Review Panel.** The Scientific Panel is comprised of eight nationally-recognized scientists with broad expertise in landscape ecology, fisheries and aquatic biology, physical processes and terrestrial and wetlands ecology. In order to ensure an independent and objective review, panelists do not have extensive experience in the Bay-Delta system.

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**Technical Advisors to the Panel.** Technical advisors with specific expertise in the Bay-Delta system will be assembled to assist the Scientific Panel in its review if additional technical expertise or clarification of specific issues is needed. The technical advisors will include experts affiliated with governmental agencies, stakeholders, and local universities who have played a significant role in the development of the scientific issues in the Bay-Delta system.

**Public Participation.** Members of the public are invited to attend all phases of the deliberations. There will be public comment periods on each day of the workshop and opportunities to submit written comments to the Panel throughout the course of the workshop.

**Scope of the Panel Review.** The review will focus on landscape-level issues of basic scientific theories and the planning approach of the ERPP. The Panel will not be asked to review action-specific issues or analyze technical data due to the short period of review and because the panelists may not be familiar with the Bay-Delta system. Questions have been developed to facilitate and promote the Panel discussions by highlighting the important issues of the ERPP; they are not intended to limit the scope of the Panel's review. Short briefings for the Panel will also provide background information to facilitate discussions and deliberations.

**Requirements of Panelists.** Panelists will have responsibilities before, during and after the workshop. First, panelists will be asked to review the ERPP and other relevant background information which will be provided by CALFED staff before the workshop. To ensure the most comprehensive review of the ERPP, CALFED encourages panelists to offer any suggestions or request clarification as needed before the workshop convenes. Then, panelists are asked to actively participate in public panel deliberations. Third, panelists will review and contribute to a final report.

**Process and Structure of the Scientific Review Panel Workshop.** Over a four day period the Panel will meet and participate in a facilitated scientific review. The first hour or so of the first day will be devoted to a general overview of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. The remainder of the first day and the second and third days will focus on deliberations using the series of questions developed to structure the agenda. Technical Advisors will be available to assist the Panel and provide information when needed to further the deliberations. The fourth day will be utilized to frame recommendations and discuss other issues identified during the deliberations. All phases of the review will be open to the public and there will be opportunity for public comment each day.

The facilitation team will prepare a 25 to 40 page written summary of the panel deliberations. Then, panelists will review and provide comments on the draft summary to ensure that it adequately represents the Panel discussion and recommendations. The final report will be forwarded to the Bay-Delta Advisory Council Ecosystem Restoration Work Group to provide an opportunity for public review and input. The Panel report and a summary of public comments on the Panel report will be forwarded to the full Bay Delta Advisory Committee and the CALFED agencies. The recommendations will be utilized to refine the ERPP.