SUMMARY OF WATER QUALITY IMPACTS

Potential water quality impacts resulting from proposed CALFED programmatic actions and solution alternatives are divided into the following impact categories:

1. Direct short-term impacts resulting from 1) construction of storage and conveyance facilities; 2) restoration of aquatic and riparian habitats; and 3) improvements to levees and dredging of channels.
2. Long-term impacts associated with the operation of storage and conveyance facilities and conversion of land use.

COMMON PROGRAMS

The Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan programmatic actions for the Delta and San Francisco Bay regions were analyzed. .The actions involve the conversion of agricultural lands on Delta islands to aquatic or riparian habitat. The construction phase of these actions could result in direct short-term impacts to turbidity and suspended solids. The land use conversions could result in direct long-term impacts to the rate of emission of dissolved organic carbon (DOC), pesticides, salts, and nutrients.

STORAGE AND CONVEYANCE COMPONENTS

The South Delta Channel Improvements, Thomas-Newville Reservoir Project and Red Bank Projects were analyzed. Direct-short term impacts to turbidity and suspended solids could result from the construction activities and dredging associated with these projects. Direct long-term impacts of these projects are related to the operation of the entire system of storage and conveyance facilities. If system operations are constrained by meeting the water quality objectives of the May 1995 Water Quality Control Plan for San Francisco-San Joaquin Delta Estuary water quality objectives direct long-term impacts would be negligible.

SOLUTION ALTERNATIVES

Alternatives 1,2,3 were not analyzed because all of the components of the alternatives have not been fully analyzed.