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**Date:** 2/19/99 10:57AM  
**Subject:** CALFED CS Weekly Report

The Staff Team met on 2/16/99 and discussed two topics: (1) the relationship between the Conservation Strategy and Stage 1 actions and (2) how to define and select species that will be \*covered\* by the Conservation Strategy.

**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CONSERVATION STRATEGY AND STAGE 1 ACTIONS:**

After the discussion, there was general agreement on the following: The programmatic Conservation Strategy is designed to provide a framework for compliance with federal and state laws protecting listed and other sensitive species. Four important purposes of the Conservation Strategy are to: (1) identify the conservation measures necessary to meet conservation goals; (2) identify existing Biological Opinions, permits, and approvals that apply to CALFED actions; (3) provide a clear description of the processes for obtaining take authorization for Types 1, 2, and 3 CALFED actions; and (4) include instructions for obtaining take authorization, including CEQA compliance as necessary, illustrated with a clear flowchart.

At this time, Staff Team members are gathering existing federal documents (mostly Biological Opinion and HCPs) and state documents (Section 2081(b) permits and Section 2080.1 authorizations) that may apply to CALFED actions. This information will be tabulated and the Conservation Strategy will identify the take authorizations (and their extent) already in place for specific CALFED actions. Otherwise, it is expected that take authorizations will be provided in the tiered Biological Opinions and NCCPs prepared according to the streamlined process identified in the Conservation Strategy.

Using the October draft of the Conservation Strategy as a start, Staff Team attorneys are preparing a rough draft of how take authorizations will be obtained using the Conservation Strategy process for review at the Staff Team meeting on 3/2/99.

**DEFINITION AND SELECTION CRITERIA FOR COVERED SPECIES:** The term \*covered\* does not have a specific legal definition under either of the endangered species acts, so it (or another term) must be defined for use in the Conservation Strategy. Before the Staff Team makes a recommendation about how to define \*covered\* species, Staff Team members from USFWS and CDFG will review their respective agencies requirements for take authorization. This item will be discussed again at the 3/2/99 Staff Team meeting.

**PRESSING POLICY ISSUES:** The Conservation Strategy Staff Team needs decisions from the Policy Team on several issues, the most pressing of which is a decision on how to deal with service area impacts in the Conservation Strategy. This issue is on the agenda of the 2/22/99 Policy Team meeting. Decisions on the term of the CALFED Program and on assurances to be provided by the Conservation Strategy are also needed.

**UP-COMING MEETINGS**

The Staff Team will meet:

Tuesday      March 2, 1999    9 AM to Noon    Resources Building Room 804  
Call-in Number (916)

657-4113

Tuesday      March 16, 1999      9 AM to Noon    Resources Building

Tuesday      March 30, 1999      9 AM to Noon    Resources Building

The Policy Team will meet:

Tuesday      February 22, 1999    3 - 5 PM      Resources Building Room 1147