ACTIONS TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE DRINKING WATER QUALITY

Expand and Endorse Policy Statement of Continuous Improvement of In-Delta Water Quality

Proposed Decision: The CALFED Agencies agree that maintaining and improving in-Delta water quality is a necessary and important component of the Program. The CALFED Agencies further agree that they will work collaboratively during and after Stage 1 to ensure the full recognition and protection of in-Delta water quality, through but not limited to comprehensive protection for drinking water users against excessive salinity levels, under the capabilities and implementation approaches of the Clean Water Act and its California implementation authorities. The CALFED Agencies further direct staff to conduct appropriate evaluations of all proposed CALFED actions to assure that the net impact on in-Delta water quality is consistent with the goal of continuous improvement of in-Delta water quality.

Develop and Implement a Comprehensive Source Water Protection Strategy

Proposed Decisions: (1) Policy Development. The Central Valley RWQCB will establish a drinking water policy for the Delta and upstream tributaries. This policy will include the comprehensive designation of appropriate water bodies for drinking water uses, the establishment of water quality objectives for salinity and other drinking water constituents of concern, and the development of plans to control sources of established drinking water contaminants of concern. The CVRWQCB and SWRCB (because of its traditional role in established Delta standards and conditioning project water rights accordingly) would then evaluate, and where appropriate, determine whether additional protective measures are needed to protect those beneficial uses. For instance, the policy will allow the state to impose necessary requirements on discharges, and will describe how the various tools, including water operations criteria, permits, TMDLs, local stewardship efforts, etc., will be used to achieve and maintain drinking water protection. Such a comprehensive water quality protection strategy will need to be a collaborative effort among several state and federal CALFED Agencies, encompassing water quality data and regulatory tools as well as operation criteria. During Stage 1, $1 million will be provided to CVRWQCB and $1 million to SWRCB to develop this policy.

(2) Monitoring and Assessment. A comprehensive monitoring and assessment program is needed to evaluate the contribution of pollutants from a variety of sources, including ag, wetland, and urban runoff, wastewater, and boating, and to prioritize pollutant reduction measures. During Stage 1, $3 million will be provided to DWR, CVRWQCB, and USGS for monitoring and evaluation.

(3) Implementation. Following this monitoring and evaluation, appropriate actions will be identified to control these pollutants. During Stage 1, $5 million will be provided to supplement program implementation at CVRWQCB, DWR, and DHS. In addition, $20 million will be provided to CVRWQCB for incentive grants and loans to encourage the implementation of specific source control measures.

(4) Funding. Federal and state drinking water programs in the Bay-Delta region are currently funding through a variety of sources (e.g., CWA and SDWA State Revolving Funds, other Clean Water Act programs, state funds at DHS, DWR and Central Valley RWQCB). Competition for these limited funds is significant. As a result, there must be a clear commitment by the CALFED Agencies to direct some amount of existing fund is toward the implementation of mutually agreed upon priority actions. Even so, since those funds will likely be insufficient to accomplish all Stage 1 actions, new appropriations are necessary.

Implement a Comprehensive San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program

Proposed Decisions:

(1) Evaluation Funding will be provided a for an independent San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the drainage problem in the San Joaquin Valley including and analysis of potential solutions (e.g., on-farm and district source control measures, development of treatment technology, real-time management, implementation of projects such as the Grasslands Bypass Project Use Agreement, and land management/fallowing/retirement). This program will involve the CVRWQCB, DWR, USBR, San Joaquin Valley ag, wetland, municipal/county government, and out-of-basin drinking water interests. During Stage 1, $5 million will be provided to CALFED for these efforts.

(2) Implementation. Based on these evaluations, the agencies will implement initial San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program actions, including appropriate monitoring. These efforts will be funded at a level of $20 million in Stage 1.

Invest in Treatment-Technology Development of UV Disinfection and Desalinization

Proposed Decisions:

(1) UV Disinfection. The CALFED Agencies agree to implement a demonstration project to design and operate an open-channel UV disinfection plant at 5-10 mgd to treat Delta water. This project will be implemented by USEPA/DHS and will be funded at a level of $11 million ($1M for design and $10M for construction) in Stage 1.

(2) M---- Treatment. The CALFED Agencies also agree to implement demonstration projects to design and operate desalinization facilities for agricultural drainage on a local (i.e., site specific) and regional scale that would have both Delta and statewide significance. Emphasis should be on management of brines and waste streams on-site. This project will be implemented by

USEPA/DHS and will be funded at a level of $14 million ($1M for design, 10M for construction and $3M for operation and maintenance) in Stage 1. These funds are in addition to the $700,00 allocated to this project in FY00.

Control Runoff into the California Aqueduct

Proposed Decision: The CALFED Agencies agrees that $25 million will be provided to DWR to implement appropriate physical modifications and watershed management programs to control runoff into the California Aqueduct.

Develop and Implement the First Phase of a Bay-Area Water Quality Strategy

Proposed Decision: The CALFED Agencies agree that, in developing and implementation a Bay Area urban water quality strategy during Stage 1, they will:

- Implement the initial phase of the **Bay Area Blending/Exchange** project, including evaluation of existing infrastructure and alternative changes in conveyance and storage. These efforts will be funded at a level of $20 million in Stage 1, including $5 million to DWR for the evaluation of a San Luis Bypass to connect the San Felipe Unit with the California Aqueduct.
- Ensure aggressive implementation of Bay Area utilities' **water use efficiency measures.**
- Implement the initial phase of the **Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program.** These efforts will be implemented by USBR/DWR and funded at a level of $250M (50% of total cost) in Stage 1.
- Initiate feasibility studies to determine the costs and benefits of both (1) implementing **North Bay Aqueduct exchanges** with Lake Berryessa and (2) relocating the North Bay Aqueduct intake nearer to the Sacramento River. These actions will be implemented by USEPA/DWR and funded at a combined level of $400,000 in Stage 1.
- Implement actions that address problems of elevated salinity and other pollutants at **CCWD intakes** (Old River/Byron Tract; Rock Slough/Veale Tract). These efforts will be implemented by USEPA/CVRWQCB and funded at a level of $4-10M in Stage 1.

Expand Cross-Valley Interconnects to Facilitate Sierra/Valley Exchanges

Proposed Decision: The CALFED Agencies agree that appropriate infrastructure improvements will be evaluated to facilitate Sierra/Valley water exchanges to address water quality concerns of municipal suppliers. These efforts will be led by USBR/DWR and funded at a level of $5 million in Stage 1.

Improve In-Delta and/or Near-Delta Storage Capability for Water Quality Benefits

Proposed Decision: Conduct joint DWR/USBR/local partnership evaluations on new or expanded in-Delta storage (240TAF) and near-Delta storage (400TAF) to provide drinking water quality benefits.

Initiate Evaluation of Hood/Mokelumne Diversion and Delta Cross Channel Operation

Proposed Decision: "Formalize interagency evaluation of Delta Cross Channel gate operations and implement alternative operations to improve water quality while protecting fishery resources" and "Immediately commence interagency evaluation of potential conveyance facility at Hood. This effort will develop objective criteria and a schedule for evaluating the need and performance of a proposed screened conveyance facility at Hood."

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