

July 19, 1999

DRAFT--revised

CALFED MILESTONES: Potential talking points for Babbitt/Davis

Integrated Storage Investigation

By June 2000, CALFED will:

- Evaluate the potential for re-operation of many of California's hydro power facilities for local water supply, environmental benefits, recreation and state-wide water supply reliability
- Make a final determination on the state's need for surface storage and screened potential sites
- Complete prioritization of potential opportunities for eliminating or modifying barriers to fish migration

By the end of Stage I CALFED:

- Will successfully construct, in partnership with local districts and local government, two to three major groundwater banking projects with a target volume of about 500 TAF. [This amount of environmentally friendly underground storage is enough to provide reliable water supply for over a half million California families for a year).
- Will begin removal or modification of barriers to fish migration
- In partnership with the state re-operating selected hydropower dams for local water supply, environmental benefits, and recreation.

South Delta Improvements

By January 1, 2000

- State and federal agencies will have begun the necessary environmental studies to make physical improvements in the south Delta including habitat improvements, major fish screens, and physical barriers to protect fish while improving water supply reliability.

Water Quality

CALFED is committed to continuous improvements in source water quality for the state's drinking water supply and for environmental water quality.

By September 1, 1999

- CALFED will establish a Delta Drinking Water Council to oversee efforts to improve urban source water quality

By the fall of 1999:

- CALFED, working with water suppliers and stakeholders, will develop measurable drinking water quality milestones that will be used as indicators of continuous improvement in drinking water quality during Stage I implementation. These milestones will be used to evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of Stage I drinking water quality actions, including alternative sources of water supply and exchanges, source control actions, and treatment technologies.

Water Transfers

CALFED's water transfer program will help move the state's water market to a new level through several actions.

By June of 2000 (the ROD) we will accomplish the following at a minimum:

- Jointly working with the directors of DWR, USBR and the SWRCB, CALFED will have clearly defined and begun to implement a more efficient transfer approval process. This new approval process will speed up approval times without jeopardizing our ability to prevent negative local impacts.
- Working through the California legislature, CALFED will establish the California Water Transfer Information Clearinghouse, which, at a minimum, will disseminate information on proposed transfers to anyone interested and will facilitate research to better understand and prevent negative impacts on local rural areas
- Using the expertise of DWR and USBR, CALFED will develop better accounting and reporting methods to ensure that water transferred to increase instream flows is actually flowing down that stream
- Working closely with DWR and USBR, CALFED will make it easier for transferring parties to use existing federal and state canals and pipelines to move transferred water

Water Use Efficiency

By the end of 1999, CALFED will

- Draft quantifiable objectives for agricultural water use efficiency
- Establish a certification and compliance process for urban water conservation Best Management Practices

[Add: Both the federal and state administrations will be making a renewed investment in water conservation and recycling in California through the CALFED Program in the next ___ year(s) by(?)_____]

By June of 2000, when the ROD is published, CALFED will:

- Fund technical assistance programs for ag, urban water conservation programs, for urban recycling programs and for managed wetlands
- Firm up quantifiable water use efficiency objectives for agriculture
- By mid-2000, CALFED will be operating an ag incentive program and by the end of 2000, will also be operating incentive programs for urban, recycling and managed wetlands programs

Environmental Water Account

By the end of October 1999, CALFED will:

- Propose what environmental protections will be provided through regulatory prescriptive standards and which will be provided through an Environmental Water Account
- Provide detailed approaches for operating an EWA
- Estimate the amount of money , and water required to make the EWA work, as well as levels of protection created for the fisheries and for water quality
- Develop an accounting mechanism to integrate all environmental water acquisitions

By January 1, 2000 CALFED will

- Be ready to implement a pilot EWA for the year 2000 water operations

Ecosystem Restoration

To date, CALFED's Ecosystem Restoration Program has received more than 800 proposals and has approved 195 projects for a total of \$228 million.

- CALFED recently approved \$28 million for partial funding of a dam removal and habitat restoration project on Battle Creek, one of the premier salmon spawning tributary streams in the Sacramento Valley. PG&E and private foundations will provide the remainder of the funding. This is the kind of project that showcases the potential for CALFED to leverage large amounts of funding to achieve its ecosystem restoration goals.

- CALFED has provided more than \$13 million for the Cosumnes River Preserve, which preserves acres of priceless riparian oak forest in the South Delta
- More than \$36 million has been dedicated to eight projects in the Sacramento River Conservation Area, focusing on preserving restoring riparian habitat, providing fish protections and conducting vital research.
- CALFED has funded more than \$34 million for 36 fish screen projects designed to reduce the adverse effects if irrigation diversions on California's major rivers. When all the projects approved have been screened, nearly 75% of the diverted water on the upper Sacramento River will be screened.
- CALFED has provided more than \$10.5 million of Federal Bay-Delta Act funds for expansion of the San Joaquin Wildlife Refuge. The benefits provided by this project include widening of the floodplain, groundwater recharge and protection and restoration of additional important riparian and wetland habitats.
- CALFED has approved more than \$5 million toward the restoration of Prospect Island in the Delta and has approved more than \$8.5 million for the acquisition of Liberty Island. Preservation and restoration of these lands will lay the foundation for the new proposed North Delta National Wildlife Refuge. This refuge will not only provide important fish and wildlife habitat, but will also improve the flow of floodwaters through the North Delta—another example of the synergistic benefits of the CALFED approach to solving problems in the Delta.
- CALFED has approved more than \$5.6 million for restore Butte Creek. CALFED has funded 12 projects on Butte Creek, including installation offish screens and fish passage and small dam removal. This year's spring run salmon returns on Butte Creek reached 20,000 returning adults, and increase from _____ in 1994.
- More than \$11 million has been provided for 22 projects, including directly supported habitat restoration, contaminant reduction and research and evaluation of non-native species and watershed support in San Francisco Bay.
- More than \$8 million has been approved for 24 projects to provide support to local watershed organizations on activities, which will directly benefit the Bay.
- More than \$14 million has been approved for 19 projects to improve drinking water and ecosystem eater quality in the Bay-Delta system.
- Nearly \$3 million has been provided for 14 environmental education projects that increase public awareness of natural resource and ecosystem restoration activities, foster active participation in conservation programs, and encourage individuals in the wise use of the natural resources of the Bay-Delta system.

Abstract for delta smelt team:

The Delta Smelt Team concluded that Alternative 3 has the most potential to improve conditions for delta smelt; however, the uncertainty associated with this evaluation is extremely high. The Team reached this conclusion after a qualitative assessment of existing data on delta smelt biology and consideration of model runs based on specific configurations and operational criteria for the different Alternatives. Although the Team had consensus on a number of assumptions regarding delta smelt biology, opinions of other scientists on the validity of the assumptions will likely vary from consensus to strong disagreement. The outcome of the assessment is very dependent on these assumptions. The Team did separate assessments for wet and dry years, because delta smelt distribution is sensitive to hydrologic conditions. The Alternatives were assessed in comparison to existing conditions. Existing conditions in wet years can be characterized as moderately poor and in dry years as very poor. The No Action Alternative results in a slight worsening of conditions in both year types because of increased diversions to meet increased demand. The Common Programs result in a moderate improvement in conditions in both year types because of hypothesized benefits associated with increases in shallow-water habitat. Alternatives 1 and 2 represented moderate improvements compared to existing conditions but the benefits are derived from the Common Programs rather than changes in conveyance associated with the alternatives. Alternative 1 resulted in a slight decline in value of the Common Programs. Alternative 2 resulted in a moderate decline in the value of the Common Programs. The hydrodynamic effects of Alternative 2 were believed to be a strong negative effect on delta smelt. Alternative 3 resulted in significant benefit to delta smelt because of the combination of the positive effects of the Common Programs and the Team's assessment that the hydrodynamic effects would also be positive for the majority of the population. The degree of benefit from the three Alternatives is very dependent on the Common Programs; thus, different assumptions about benefits of the Common Programs could result in substantially different assessments.