Draft of paper to be used by Lester in discussions with FWS dated 3/9/99. Incorporated comments from Marian and Mark. Sent back to each as well as Ron and Rick W. 3/12.

Among the goals of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program is providing good **(good is what our goals and objectives say)** water quality in the Bay-Delta for all beneficial uses while at the same time improving ecological functions in the Bay-Delta to support sustainable populations of fish species. The CALFED Bay-Delta Program believes water coordinated operations using a combination of the Delta-Cross Channel (DCC) and a new screened diversion facility to convey water from the Sacramento River to the Mokelumne River is a necessary component in achieving this goal.

Currently, the DCC is closed at different times of the year to keep salmon out of the interior Delta and in the Sacramento River to improve their chance of survival as they move to the ocean. The closure of the DCC, depending on the time of the year, can impact water quality in the central and south Delta, at Contra Costa's intake facility and at the State and Federal pumping plants. When the DCC is closed water is drawn across the Delta through Georgiana and Three Mile Sloughs and around the end of Sherman Island. Following this route, the water reaching the central and south Delta has a higher salinity than the water coming through the DCC.

A screened diversion on the Sacramento River near Hood could minimize water quality concerns associated with the DCC closures. However, such a facility could have a number of impacts on fishery resources such as:

- Expose young Sacramento River salmon as well as other species to a new fish screen;
- Block or impair upstream passage of migrating fish;
- Impair cues of upstream migrating fish;
- Entrain eggs and larvae of striped bass; and
- Entrain Delta smelt.

In view of this conflict, the Program proposes to:

- Develop operational criteria for the DCC that balances flood control, water quality, water supply reliability and fisheries concerns;
- Study and evaluate a screened diversion structure on the Sacramento River. **I moved the remainder of the description to the next bullet. So much definition here may give someone the sense that we have already decided to build the facility.** This evaluation would consider how to operate the Delta Cross Channel in conjunction with this new diversion structure to achieve the optimum balance between improving Delta water quality while minimizing adverse fishery impacts.
- If the evaluation indicates that a screened diversion would help achieve CALFED's goal to improve water quality for all beneficial purposes, and can be operated without adversely impacting fishery populations in the Delta, a pilot diversion structure, pumps and a channel between the diversion and the Mokelumne River would be constructed and again evaluated in conjunction with the DCC operations. The capacity of the pilot facility would be based on this evaluation, but a minimum capacity of 4000 cfs will be considered. Following evaluation of pilot facility operations, a final decision would be made on whether the diversion channel and structure should continue to be used, and if

so, what the operational rules and optimum size of the diversion should be.

[Note: A maximum diversion of 4000 cfs is being considered in this evaluation. Deliberation of the DEFT process revealed a prevailing belief among CALFED agency fishery experts that diversions of a significant portion of Sacramento River flows would cause significant adverse fishery impacts. A diversion capacity of 4000 cfs is estimated as a maximum that might be workable. Additional evaluation might reveal that a smaller capacity diversion is optimal.]