

Bay-Delta Program Issues

Conveyance

- Comparison of alternatives
Have we adequately described how the alternatives perform under the distinguishing criteria? Which alternative performs best according to these criteria?
- Size of Isolated Facility Under Alternative 3
Should Alternative 3 include an isolated facility with a capacity of 10,000 (\pm 2,000) cfs, or a broader range?
- Operational criteria
How should potential changes in operating criteria/standards be described and evaluated?
- Phasing Under Alternative 3
To what extent is phasing appropriate to define and shape the design and operation of Alternative 3?

Storage

- Level of Detail/Range
Is the range and level of detail on storage appropriate? How and when will we better define potential sites?
- Portion for Ecosystem Protection
To what extent should storage be reserved for ecosystem protection?
- Decision Process
Given that there appears to be no "optimal" level of storage, how will we determine a recommended level?

ERPP

- Conceptual models and indicators
How are we addressing the issues raised by the scientific review panel, particularly with respect to the need for conceptual models and indicators?
- Stakeholder/agency comments
How are we addressing the specific comments of the agencies and stakeholders?
- Appropriate Target Levels
- Targets for Striped Bass and American Shad

Water Quality

- Delta water quality
To what extent do the alternatives affect In-Delta water quality? If negatively, how should it be mitigated?
- Status of Revisions
What is the status of revisions to this program?
- Performance measures/commitments
Should the water quality program include performance measures to track attainment of Program goals?
- Peer Review
Should this program undergo some form of scientific peer review?
- Watershed Management Strategy
Is the strategy in its current form sufficient for the programmatic draft?
- Role of Land Retirement
To what extent will land retirement be used to improve water quality?

Water Use Efficiency

- Role of Land Fallowing/Retirement
Should land retirement or fallowing be used as a water efficiency tool?
- Consistency between state and federal programs
Should entities wishing to receive CALFED Program benefits be required to submit agricultural conservation plans that satisfy both AB 3616 and CVPIA requirements?
- Performance measures
Should the Program include some measure of success for the water use efficiency goals?
- Water Transfers
How will the water transfers program be further developed?
- Technical and Financial Assistance
To what extent does the Program intend to provide technical and financial assistance?

Levees

- Cost
What is the estimated cost of this Program element?

- Level of protection
Should the Delta levees be rehabilitated to PL 99 standards?
- Levee Maintenance
Should levee maintenance and habitat mitigation requirements be changed?
- Status of Review
What is the status of agency and stakeholder review of this program?
- Dredging
What is the status/potential for reuse of dredged materials for Delta levees and ecosystem restoration projects?

Assurances

- Status
What is the status of the Assurances package?
- Possible need for new entity for ecosystem restoration
Will the Program recommend the formation of a new entity to implement the ERPP?
- Area of origin
Will the Program include assurances under the area of origin statutes?
- HCP/ESA Assurances
Will the Program include an HCP or other ESA assurances?
- Level of Detail
Will the level of detail be adequate to provide meaningful assurances?

Finance

- Costs
What are the estimated costs of the Program elements?
- Need agreement on principles
What principles will be used to determine who pays the costs?
- Financing Plan
Will the next document include a specific financing plan?

Process Issues

- Nature of document
Should the document be a draft EIR/EIS? Should it include a preferred alternative?
- Schedule
- Stakeholder concerns
What are the key stakeholder concerns that should be highlighted in the document? How do we intend to address them?

Other

- Impact of Program elements on agricultural land, prime agricultural land
How will the impacts on prime agricultural lands be addressed?
- Possible climate change effects
How will the potential impacts of climate change be addressed?
- Clear integration of Program elements
Have we adequately described how the Program elements will be integrated?
- Non-severability of Program elements
- Completeness of Impact Analysis