

Process for Release of
HIS/EIR

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E-002256

Process for Release of EIS/EIR



Memorandum

Date: January 20, 1998

To: CALFED Policy Group

From: Lester A. Snow *LSnow*
Executive Director

Subject: Recommendations for Process for Release of Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR

Summary

The draft Programmatic EIS/EIR is currently under review by each of the CALFED agencies. Once the draft is approved for public release, we have several options for how to sign the notices of availability and notice of completion required by federal and state law, and how to sign the cover letter accompanying the release.

In addition, we also need to establish the length of the public comment period.

Action Items

1. Request the CALFED Policy Group approve the recommendations for signing the notices and cover letter.
2. Approve the recommendation for a 60-day comment period.

Detailed Discussion

1. Signing Notices

We have several options on how to sign these various documents. These range from having all federal and state agencies sign both the federal and state notices to having the co-lead agencies delegate authority to Lester Snow to sign for them. Our recommendation for each of these documents is as follows:

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

1a. Notices of Availability and Notice of Public Hearings

- **Federal Register Notice of Availability and Notice of Public Hearings.** Propose to have Roger Patterson sign pursuant to the co-lead agencies' MOU and letters delegating authority to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.
- **State Public Notice of Availability.** Propose to have Doug Wheeler sign for The Resources Agency as the state lead agency.

1b. Filing Draft EIS/EIR with U.S. EPA and Council on Environmental Quality

Propose to have Roger Patterson sign pursuant to the co-lead agencies' MOU and letters delegating authority to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

1c. Submit Notice of Completion to State Clearinghouse Propose to have Doug Wheeler sign for The Resources Agency as the state lead agency.

2. Cover Letter

In addition, we propose to work with all agencies in preparing a letter transmitting the draft EIS/EIR to the public, and to coordinate with agency public affairs offices on a joint news releases. We recommend that the co-chairs (Doug Wheeler and Bob Perciasepe) and Executive Director Lester Snow sign the cover letter.

3. Public Comment Period. We also propose that the public comment period be 60 days, with public hearings taking place during that same period. The minimum public comment period under CEQA/NEPA is 45 days. Public workshops are proposed early in the public hearing schedule.