

Other Issues

E-002292

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## Memorandum

Date: January 20, 1998  
To: CALFED Policy Group  
From: Lester A. Snow *gms* *Director*  
Executive Director  
Subject: Agricultural Land Conversion

### Summary

The issue of agricultural land conversion has been a topic of discussion at the last several meetings. At the most recent Management Team meeting, it was determined that we need to define the issue in a straightforward way and develop a strategy to address the issue in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. In the draft EIS/EIR, impacts to agricultural lands are assumed to be worst case in order to capture the maximum impacts. At the upcoming meeting, CALFED staff will provide a table which summarizes the impacts to prime and unique agricultural lands by Alternative.

Discussions at the Management Team meetings have acknowledged that this issue is of greater magnitude than the CALFED Program and will require a forum outside the Program to develop a comprehensive strategy to address the overall issue of preservation of agricultural lands.

At the upcoming meeting, CALFED staff will summarize impacts to prime agricultural lands by Alternative, lay out general concepts for a strategy, and discuss the significant impacts that will accrue as a result of additional demand reduction actions that have not yet been evaluated.

### Action Item

This agenda item is for discussion only.

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#### CALFED Agencies

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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