

LETTERHEAD OF ALL 15 AGENCIES AND CALFED

DRAFT--Feb. 19, 1998

March 16, 1998

Dear Interested Persons:

Accompanying this letter is a copy of the Executive Summary of the Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and the Phase II Interim Report, a concise explanation of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, its purposes, and the process by which we plan to proceed with the Program. This report is part of the Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR which was filed on March 16, 1998, and is intended to provide an overview and summary of the Program in a context that makes the complex process more approachable.

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is a cooperative effort by fifteen state and federal agencies with regulatory and management responsibilities in the San Francisco Bay-Sacramento/San Joaquin River Bay-Delta to develop a long-term solution to the problems affecting the Bay-Delta system. As many of you know, the objective of this collaborative planning process is to identify comprehensive solutions to the problems of ecosystem quality, water supply reliability, water quality, and vulnerability of Delta levees and channels to natural disasters, using a process designed to result in solutions of manageable scope that will be implementable.

This report describes twelve alternative methods (within the three basic categories identified in Phase I of the Program) to achieve this objective and explains the process which is being used to identify a preferred alternative.

The mission of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program is to develop a long-term comprehensive plan that will restore ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta system. We invite you to share with us your comments and suggestions on this Phase II Interim Report and the Executive Summary and help us move forward toward achieving that goal together. A list of the libraries where the complete Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR, including the appendices, is available, is enclosed with this letter. If you wish a copy of the complete Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR, please contact the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 252-34, Sacramento, CA 95814, Attn: Rick Breitenbach. Public comments on the Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR are due before the end of the public comment period on June 1, 1998.

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Detailed Discussion

To date, 71 projects have been selected. These projects are summarized in the two following tables, based on CALFED's tentative division of the projects approved in January between funding sources.

Table 1. Funding Sources and Amount Allocated to Date

Funding Source	Funds Available	Number of Projects	Funds Allocated (Thousands)
Category III Funds from Proposition 204	\$60 million	38	\$47,279
FY 98 Federal Funds	\$85 million	19	\$28,543
1997/8 CUWA Category III Funds	\$10 million	9	\$7,565
EPA Category III Watershed Funds	\$2 million	5	\$1,768
Total	\$157 million	71	\$85,155

Table 2. Allocations by Budget Category

Budget Category	Number of Projects	Category III from Prop 204 (Thousands)	FY 98 Federal Funding (Thousands)	EPA Category III Watershed Funding (Thousands)	FY 97/98 CUWA Category III Funding (Thousands)
Fish Screen Improvement	13	\$7,481	\$1,639	\$0	\$2,173
Fish Passage Improvements	2	\$0	\$325	\$0	\$238
Habitat Restoration in Floodplains and Marshes	12	\$12,684	\$12,142	\$0	\$5,154
River Channel Changes	21	\$19,859	\$9,855	\$0	\$0