



NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

For Immediate Release
March 16, 1998

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JOHN GARAMENDI STATEMENT ON CALFED

SACRAMENTO - John Garamendi, Deputy Secretary of the Interior, today issued the following statement upon the release of the CALFED Bay-Delta draft environmental impact statement.

"Today, we are releasing the draft environmental impact report for the CALFED Bay-Delta program. This is an important milestone toward solving California's environmental and water problems.

"It is important to note that this report does not include a preferred alternative. We do not have a preconceived idea about what the ultimate decision will be.

"This is a work in progress. We are open to hearing what the citizens of California have to say about this report and we will seek their input. In fact, there will be 12 public hearings around the state to listen to the public.

"We know that any solution will require a combination of environmental restoration measures, flood management facilities, water supply facilities, and water demand management action, including water marketing.

"I note that the report begins with a quote from Vaclav Havel - 'either we have hope within us or we don't.' As a native of the Central Valley, I have been dealing with water issues all my life and I have hope that we are finally on the road toward solving these issues in a manner which protects our environment and provides for the water needs of our state."

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