

Bay-Delta
AG-URBAN POLICY GROUP

PARTICIPANTS

Association of California
Water Agencies
California Urban Water Agencies
Central Valley Project
Water Association
Contra Costa Water District
Coming Water District
East Bay Municipal
Utility District
Friant Water Users Authority
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
Kern County Water Agency
Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California
Modesto Irrigation District
Mountain Counties Water
Resources Association
Municipal Water District of
Orange County
North Delta Water Agency
Northern California Water
Association
Regional Council of Rural
Counties
San Diego County
Water Authority
San Francisco Public Utilities
Commission
San Joaquin River Exchange
Contractors Water Authority
San Joaquin River Group
Authority
San Luis Canal Company
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water
Authority
Santa Clara Valley Water District
South Delta Water Agency
State Water Contractors
Stockton East Water District
Tehama Colusa Canal Authority
Westlands Water District
Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water
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NEWS RELEASE

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**STATEMENT BY THE BAY-DELTA AG-URBAN
POLICY GROUP IN RESPONSE TO RELEASE OF
CALFED DOCUMENT**

The Ag-Urban Policy group wants to acknowledge the accomplishment the CALFED Bay-Delta Program has achieved with today's release of the draft environmental review document. Over nearly three years, CALFED has engaged urban, agricultural and environmental leaders in the most exhaustive planning process ever conducted on water issues related to California's Bay-Delta. The 16 state and federal agencies that comprise the CALFED coalition has met difficult issues head-on and provided an honest accounting of all the options before us.

While there is a lot of work ahead for all, we believe CALFED has started down the right road toward developing a comprehensive solution. All stakeholders closely followed the CALFED process and provided substantial technical and policy input.

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It is important for all interests to objectively address the complex resource management issues and avoid historic viewpoints. Certainly we and others will not agree with everything in the CALFED document. Our ultimate goal is to create a solution that will achieve environmental objectives in the Bay-Delta and improve water quality, water supply and reliability, thereby maintaining all sectors of California's \$800 billion economy. Now is the time for everyone to focus on CALFED's by outlining options in a manageable set of alternatives that will lead to negotiations for an ultimate solution. This document establishes the necessary framework to develop an integrated, balanced program that will produce the following outcomes:

- A consistent, high-quality drinking water source for the 22 million Californians who depend on the Delta for part or all of their drinking water supply;

- An effective program to enhance Delta fisheries and other environmental resources;

- A foundation on which the water supply and reliability necessary to sustain our growing cities and vital agricultural economy can be built.

- Water conservation and recycling measures, new water storage and facilities, and a water transfers program to meet California's growing water supply needs.

California water leaders believe the CALFED solution must equitably meet all Californians' needs. In the weeks ahead, we will be conducting a thorough analysis of this document and will

provide additional comments. What we hope to see here is a plan that allows all interests to get better together.

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