

CALFED Bay-Delta Program Phase II Completion Work Plan

This work plan describes the activities to be completed by the CALFED Bay-Delta Program to refine program components, select the preferred program alternative, finalize the EIR/S, and prepare a Program Implementation Plan for the preferred program alternative. These activities will complete Phase II of the Program and further define the Phase III activities. Figure 1 is a generalized diagram of the work plan showing the major activities, their timing, and the primary interrelationships between activities.

The work plan consists of three principal elements; 1) Program Implementation Planning, 2) Refine Components, and 3) Prepare Environmental Documentation. Each of these elements is described below along with the individual activities and tasks included in each element.

The program alternatives have been developed to a level of detail and understanding almost sufficient for comparison and selection of a preferred program alternative. However, a number of critical factors must be addressed before a preferred program alternative can be selected. In general, these factors involve areas of uncertain or controversial science, subjective policy considerations, or both. All of these factors cannot be fully and conclusively resolved before the preferred program alternative is selected. Rather in Phase II, CALFED will evaluate the sensitivity of each program alternative to the range of potential outcomes associated with each critical factor.

Selecting the Preferred Program Alternative

Each program alternative consists of essentially the same six common programs, a storage program that differs slightly among the alternatives, virtually identical North and South Delta Programs, and Delta conveyance component. The principal difference among the program alternatives is the configuration of Delta conveyance. The Program identified 18 distinguishing characteristics that have guided the evaluation of the program alternatives. The Phase II Interim Report concluded that nine of the distinguishing characteristics, in fact, do not vary significantly among the three program alternatives, and that consideration of a preferred program alternative rests on the following nine most significant distinguishing characteristics:

- In-Delta Water Quality
- **Export Water Quality**
- **Diversion Effects on Fisheries**
- Delta Flow Circulation
- Water Supply Opportunities
- Operational Flexibility
- Risk to Export Water Supplies
- **Assurances**
- **Consistency With Solution Principles**

DRAFT - 4/1/98

The highlighted characteristics are those that need additional technical work in order to further consider the program alternatives. This work plan describes the tasks required to evaluate and display the sensitivity of program alternative choice to each of these factors. The work plan also describes other tasks that will be completed during the Phase II time frame that, while not necessary to support selection of a preferred program alternative, are needed to better describe the program alternatives and to support site specific planning, environmental documentation, design, and implementation in Phase III. Tasks needed to support selection of a preferred program alternative are designated as "*Critical Task*."

Public comments on the Program EIS/R, and input received through the Program's continuing public involvement activities, may identify other issues that will require additional technical analysis to support selection of a preferred program alternative. These analyses, if any, will be scheduled and staffed as they arise.

Role of the Matrix Manager

A matrix manager, Stein Buer, is responsible for coordinating the Element 1 activities leading to completion of the Program Implementation Plan. The matrix manager will work closely with each of the component technical teams to coordinate the flow of component implementation plan information to the Program Implementation Plan.

Element 1- Program Implementation Planning

These activities will result in a Program Implementation Plan that will describe the preferred program alternative in terms of its capital projects; assurances, including operations and staging; and program financing. The Program Implementation Plan will incorporate the five Component Implementation Plans developed in Element 2- Refine Components. This element consists of three major tasks; (A) Assurances, (B) Financing Strategy, and © Program Implementation Plan.

(A) Assurances - Assurances are the various mechanisms that will assure that the preferred program alternative will be implemented and operated as agreed. The heart of the assurance package is a staging and linkage plan that will outline the fundamental sequence and conditions for implementing the various features of the preferred program alternative. Staging and linkage will differ among the three program alternatives based primarily on differences in Delta conveyance configurations. Therefore, a staging and linkage plan will be prepared for each program alternative prior to selection of a preferred program alternative. Numerous legal and institutional mechanisms are available to implement the staging and linkage plan and will be more fully developed and refined through the end of Phase II and into Phase III.

1. Phase III Staging and Linkage - Staging is the sequencing of program actions so as to assure that program implementation continues in the manner and at the

pace agreed upon. Linkages are the conditions that must be satisfied by one part of the program before other specified parts of the program can be implemented. For each of the three program alternatives, prepare a matrix of program actions versus time. Consider time steps of approximately five years each. For each time step, specify actions or portions of actions to be implemented, identify implementation levels, and estimated costs for each time step. Identify any triggers or off ramps associated with each action at each time step and identify the consequences of any failure to achieve the specified triggers. Display the major features of each matrix in a summary graphic format. **Deliverable - White paper for internal use and incorporation into other CALFED documents.**

*CALFED Lead - Mary Scoonover, Lester Snow, Stein Buer
Agency Staffing - EPA (Seraydarian)
Review Process - Assurances Work Group*

2. Assurance Package - Numerous legal and institutional mechanisms are available to implement the staging and linkage plan including legislation, contracts, bond covenants, permit conditions, and regulations. Create a strategy that assures the preferred program alternative will be implemented and operated as agreed. Develop the following assurances:

- Governance: This task addresses the issues surrounding who implements the preferred program alternative.
- Contingency Response Process: Develop a process to address unforeseen circumstances. Identify categories of contingencies, and for each category, specify protocols and procedures to be used to develop an appropriate response.
- Conservation Strategy: Coordinate with the group developing a conservation strategy to link the ecosystem restoration program with the other parts of the preferred program alternative. Link beneficial effects on special status species with potential adverse effects to describe priorities for beneficial actions and limitations on potentially detrimental actions.
- Clean Water Act Compliance and Other Permitting Issues: Coordinate with the various component refinement activities that involve Clean Water Act compliance to ensure a consistent approach throughout the program.

The level of detail to which the assurances will be developed will increase through the end of Phase II into Phase III as the preferred program alternative is selected and refined. Assist the matrix manager to integrate program assurances into the Program Implementation Plan. **Deliverable -**

Various interim documents for stakeholder, agency, and public review.

CALFED Lead - Mary Scoonover

Agency Staffing -

Review Process - BDAC Assurances Work Group

(B) Financial Strategy - The CALFED Bay-Delta Program will involve implementation of capital projects and resource management initiatives requiring investments of several billion dollars or more over time. The financial strategy to be included as part of the Program Implementation Plan will describe how, and by whom, these investments will be financed and funded.

1. Develop Financial Strategy - Develop a strategy for financing program implementation. Describe financing and funding mechanisms and display likely cost allocation scenarios. Identify and describe financial policies and principles to serve as the foundation for funding and cost recovery for the preferred program alternative. Develop and present a cost allocation methodology and apply the methodology to each program alternative to illustrate how costs would be recovered, i.e. who pays and how much, for each program alternative. Identify the combination of funding sources and financing mechanisms to be implemented to recover program costs. **Deliverable - Interim report for incorporation into the Program Implementation Plan.**

CALFED Lead - Zach McReynolds

Agency Staffing -

Review Process - BDAC Finance Work Group

(C) Integrate Component Implementation Plans - The Program Implementation Plan is intended to supplement the FEIR/S with more specific information describing the proposed program; its physical features; operations criteria; how actions will be implemented, in sequence, over time; statutory features enabling and limiting the program; contracts required to finance, implement, and operate the program; institutional arrangements for overseeing and coordinating program implementation and operation; a program for continued stakeholder involvement, and the program's permitting requirements.

1. Prepare Program Implementation Plan - Prepare a document that summarizes and integrates Phase II findings and conclusions.

a. Prepare Draft Program Implementation Plan - Incorporate the results of Tasks 1.A and 1.B into an integrated Program Implementation

Plan. The general outline of the Program Implementation Plan is included below.

1. Introduction
 - A. Program Features
 - B. Expected Program Accomplishments
 - C. Program Costs
2. Program Overview
 - A. Physical and Management Features
 - B. Assurances
 1. Staging and Linkages
 2. Governance
 3. Contingency Response Plan
 4. Conservation Strategy
 5. Permits and Approvals
 - C. Financing Strategy
 - D. Opportunities for Continuing Stakeholder Involvement
 - E. Adaptive Management and Monitoring
3. Program Components
 - A. Levee and Channel Integrity
 1. Physical and Management Features and Staging
 2. Expected Accomplishments
 3. Costs
 - B. Water Quality
 1. Physical and Management Features and Staging
 2. Expected Accomplishments
 3. Costs
 - C. Water Use Efficiency
 1. Physical and Management Features and Staging
 2. Expected Accomplishments
 3. Costs
 - D. Storage and Conveyance
 1. Physical and Management Features and Staging
 2. Expected Accomplishments
 3. Costs
 - E. Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan
 1. Physical and Management Features and Staging
 2. Expected Accomplishments
 3. Costs
 - F. Watershed Management Strategy
 - G. Water Transfer Policy Framework

Deliverable - Draft Program Implementation Plan for review by agencies, stakeholders, and the public.

CALFED Lead - Stein Buer
Agency Staffing -
Review Process - Management Team/Policy Team Iterative
Review

b. Finalize Program Implementation Plan - Incorporate review comments and finalize the program implementation plan. **Deliverable - Final Program Implementation Plan.**

CALFED Lead - Stein Buer
Agency Staffing -
Review Process - Management Team/Policy Team Iterative
Review

Element 2 - Refine Components

The seven program components; Levee and Channel Integrity, Water Quality, Water Use Efficiency, Storage and Conveyance, the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan, Watershed Management, and Water Transfers, have been developed to varying degrees of refinement and detail. One or more critical issues associated with each component have arisen that must be resolved in order to finalize the component descriptions. The activities and tasks described below are designed to resolve these critical issues to the degree required to select and adequately describe a preferred program alternative. Also, an implementation plan will be developed for each component. These component implementation plans will serve as the foundation for further component refinement in Phase III.

(A) Levee and Channel Integrity - Major issues to be resolved to further develop this component include further refinement of the component description, and seismic vulnerability.

Critical Task 1. Refine Component - Refine the existing component description to concisely describe what is being proposed in terms of actions, priority sequencing of levee improvement actions, and costs. Working with the existing Levees and Channels Technical Team, identify the levees and channels to be improved. Describe the improvements proposed for each levee. Incorporate the findings of the seismic vulnerability task described below. Display the estimated costs of the proposed actions. **Deliverable - Technical appendix to the FEIS/R.**

CALFED Lead - Rob Cooke
Agency Staffing - COE (Ramsbotham, OLeary)
Review Process - Existing Levees and Channels Technical Team

2. Delta Subsidence - The extent to which Delta islands may subside in the future is controversial. This task will develop a common understanding of the likely consequences of future subsidence and any protective or reactive measures that are merited. Working with the existing Levees and Channels Technical Team, quantify how subsidence could affect Delta levees over the next 20 to 30 years. Recommend steps to be taken, if any. **Deliverable - Memorandum on findings and conclusions.**

CALFED Lead - Rob Cooke

Agency Staffing - COE (Ramsbotham, O'Leary)

Review Process - Existing Levees and Channels Technical Team

3. Improve Emergency Response - This task will build upon existing State, Federal, and local agency emergency management responsibilities to improve protection of Delta resources in the event of a disaster. Working with the existing Levees and Channels Technical Team, coordinate with OES, FEMA, COE, and DWR to identify and recommend improvements to the existing emergency response system for the Delta. **Deliverable - Memorandum on findings and conclusions.**

CALFED Lead - Rob Cooke

Agency Staffing - COE (Ramsbotham, O'Leary)

Review Process - Existing Levees and Channels Technical Team

4. Seismic Vulnerability - This task will evaluate the potential performance of the existing levee system during seismic events and recovery actions and accessibility following a seismic event. Convene an expert panel to develop an opinion regarding the risk of damage to the Delta levee system from a seismic event, and the consequences of a seismic event. Describe ways to decrease the risk and present the costs associated with reducing the risk. **Deliverable - Memorandum for incorporation into technical appendix to the FEIS/R.**

CALFED Lead - Rob Cooke

Agency Staffing - DWR (DOE, OSWPP)

Review Process - Expert Panel

5. Develop General Order Waste Discharge Permits for Dredging in the Delta - Work with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to develop General Order Waste Discharge permits for dredging in the Delta. At least two CALFED program components will need dredging permits from the Central Valley Regional Board, however the Board has indicated that it has no funds to support a position to coordinate this process. Also, coordinate with studies funded by *Category III* designed to generate sediment constituent data needed to

satisfy the Board's permitting requirements. **Deliverable - General Order Permits**

CALFED Lead - Rob Cooke
Agency Staffing - Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Review Process - Regional Board

6. Implementation Plan - Develop and present a strategic plan for implementing the features of the Levee and Channel Integrity Component. Describe the physical features and programs to be implemented as part of this component. Describe implementation sequencing requirements and possibilities. Identify prerequisites for and conditions that would trigger implementation of the various features and initiatives. Display estimated capital and recurring costs. Circulate draft plan for review and comment. **Deliverable - Draft report for incorporation into the Program Implementation Plan.**

CALFED Lead - Rob Cooke
Agency Staffing - COE (Ramsbotham, O'Leary)
Review Process - Levees and Channels Technical Team

(B) Water Quality - The Water Quality Program will be further refined, and the significance of bromide and organic carbon sources to drinking water supply will be explored.

Critical Task 1. Refine Component - Increase the detail of the descriptions of water quality actions to be implemented, and costs and benefits associated with the actions consistent with the level of detail of the programmatic EIS/R, given limitations on available information. Working with an ad hoc agency/stakeholder working team, describe in increased detail the water quality pollution prevention and remediation actions of the water quality component. The level of detail provided will support prioritization of water quality actions, consistent with the programmatic nature of the EIS/R, and as constrained by limitations on available information and program resources. To the extent that additional detail is developed, it may not appear in the EIS/R, but will be used to support Phase III water quality component activities. Display the estimated costs of the proposed actions. Consider linkages between the water quality component and the restoration programs and display and quantify the benefits expected to be realized from the identified actions to the extent possible recognizing the uncertainties associated with many of the proposed actions. Recommend priorities for implementation of the various actions. **Deliverable - Draft report for incorporation into the Program Implementation Plan.**

CALFED Lead - Rick Woodard
Agency Staffing - EPA (Louis, Macler)
Review Process - Agency/Stakeholder Team

Critical Task 2. Drinking Water Quality (Bromides) - Explore the significance of bromide and organic carbon in Delta export water supplies with respect to drinking water beneficial uses. Working with the ad hoc agency/stakeholder team assembled to refine the water quality component, identify individuals (perhaps 3 to 5) to serve as an expert panel to review water quality data and model predictions of bromide and organic carbon concentrations to be expected following implementation of the CALFED program alternatives. Working with the agency/stakeholder team, present relevant information to the expert panel. Charge the panel with the following;

- Help ensure that CALFED is characterizing the issues and tradeoffs fully,
- Develop observations and questions regarding Delta water quality which may be useful to the EPA national review process, and
- Ensure that the CALFED decision making process neither overstates the potential for bromides to be a significant decision factor, nor eliminates opportunities to respond effectively to potential future drinking water standards and protect public health.

To the extent such information is available, direct the expert panel to review estimated costs for treating waters containing the predicted concentrations of bromides and organic carbon, considering a range of regulatory limits on disinfection byproducts that could be implemented in the future. Direct the expert panel to prepare a paper evaluating likely effects on human health, cost and uncertainty associated with implementing each of the program alternatives, with respect to bromide and organic carbon considerations. **Deliverable - Report of expert panel.**

CALFED Lead - Rick Woodard
Agency Staffing - EPA (Macler)
Review Process - Expert Panel

3. Implementation Plan - Develop and present a strategic plan for implementing the features of the Water Quality Component. Working with the agency/stakeholder team, define the process by which the water quality component will evolve from the programmatic level of detail to specific investigations (including monitoring, research, prefeasibility, and feasibility evaluations), environmental documentation, pilot scale implementations, full scale

project implementations, project performance assessment, and adaptive management mechanisms. Define the general roles and responsibilities of participants, including stakeholders, and describe where and how participants will have opportunities to participate in the development and implementation of the water quality component. **Deliverable - Report for inclusion in the Program Implementation Plan.**

CALFED Lead - Rick Woodard
Agency Staffing -
Review Process - Agency/Stakeholder Team

© **Water Use Efficiency** - The major issue to be resolved to further develop this component is to evaluate the cost effectiveness of various potential demand reduction measures.

1. Cost Effectiveness - The water use efficiency component is based on demand reduction measures with a benefit/cost ratio greater than one from the perspective of the water supplier. Limiting the component to the water supplier perspective may preclude consideration of measures that are only cost effective from a statewide or regional perspective. An expert panel will help determine what demand reduction mechanisms, in addition to a water transfers market, would likely be cost effective from a regional/statewide perspective.

Critical Task a. Complete Status Paper and Assemble Expert Panel - Prepare a status paper describing and framing the cost effectiveness issue. Assemble an expert panel to consider the status paper and make recommendations as to the cost effectiveness of the various measures. Direct the panel to consider the extent to which the conserved water can be stored for subsequent release and beneficial use. **Deliverable - Status paper to initiate expert panel discussion.**

CALFED Lead - Rick Soehren
Agency Staffing -
Review Process -

Critical Task b. Expert Panel Review - Present the status paper to the expert panel. Charge the expert panel with reviewing the issue and making recommendations regarding demand reduction measures to be implemented in light of a water transfers market. **Deliverable - Report of findings and recommendations.**

CALFED Lead - Rick Soehren
Agency Staffing -

Review Process -

2. Implementation Plan - Develop and present a strategic plan for implementing the features of the Water Use Efficiency Component. Describe the physical features and programs to be implemented as part of this component. Describe implementation sequencing requirements and possibilities. Identify prerequisites for and conditions that would trigger implementation of the various features and initiatives. Display estimated capital and recurring costs. Circulate draft plan for review and comment. **Deliverable - Draft report for incorporation into the Program Implementation Plan.**

*CALFED Lead - Rick Soehren
Agency Staffing -
Review Process -*

(D) Storage and Conveyance - Major issues to be resolved to further develop this component include further refinement of the component description including a narrowing of the list of potential reservoir sites; an initial, programmatic Clean Water Act, Section 404(b)1 alternatives analysis and a number of other technical activities needed to evaluate various aspects of the storage and conveyance component.

1. Refine Component - The CALFED Bay-Delta Program has identified numerous potential surface reservoir sites and issues associated with operations, and component configurations. These tasks will narrow the range of surface reservoir sites to be considered and further develop technical details associated with the storage and conveyance component.

Critical Task a. Finalize List of Reservoir Sites - Meet with agencies having Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act Section 404 permitting responsibilities to review the range of reservoir sites and to informally discuss issues and concerns associated with the various sites. Prepare cost estimates for the various reservoir options, resolving differences of opinion with stakeholders and with regulatory agencies regarding mitigation cost assumptions. Estimate a range of potential water supply yields for each option. Convene a surface water storage screening committee to consider the various sites, formulate evaluation criteria based on CALFED solution principles, objectives, and goals, and narrow the list of sites to the most promising for further consideration in Phase 3. Generally evaluate non-reservoir alternatives such as conjunctive use, demand management, and Colorado River supplies as potential less environmentally damaging, practicable alternatives to new surface storage. Describe the CALFED approach to identifying and implementing

conjunctive use opportunities. Evaluate the likely range of least cost combinations of structural and non-structural water supply alternatives. Finalize the list of promising reservoir sites and prepare descriptions of each site, potential reservoir capacities, operational opportunities and constraints, costs, and likely implementation issues. Describe how any reservoir option that will be considered further will undergo site-specific environmental review and 404 analysis in Phase III. Describe information and tools developed in Phase II that will be available for subsequent site-specific 404 analysis in Phase III. **Deliverable - Draft Section 404 Initial Compliance Report for incorporation into the Program Implementation Plan.**

*CALFED Lead - Mark Cowin
Agency Staffing - EPA (Yale, Yocam, Barroll)
Review Process - Surface Water Storage Screening Committee*

Critical Task b. Conveyance Option Equivalency Analysis - Each of the three program alternatives would have particular effects on Delta flow patterns as displayed in the programmatic EIS/R, and Phase II Interim Report. For each program alternative, identify the reduction in Delta export pumping that would result in roughly the same effect on Delta flows and Delta export water quality. Describe and characterize the range of consequences associated with the reduction in Delta export pumping identified for each of the program alternatives.

*CALFED Lead - Mark Cowin
Agency Staffing - EPA (Yale, Yocam, Barroll)
Review Process - Surface Water Storage Screening Committee*

c. Component Refinement Activities - Complete the following activities to more fully describe the features, configuration, costs, operations, and benefits of the storage and conveyance component:

Design Studies

Sacramento County conjunctive use prefeasibility evaluation;
San Joaquin County conjunctive use prefeasibility evaluation;
South Delta screened intake cost and feasibility analysis;
Critical Task South Delta water quality fix for Alternative 3 configurations;
South Delta flood solution;
Service to East Delta ag from isolated facility;
Finalize existing prefeasibility reports for inclusion in FEIS/R; and

Critical Task Evaluate South Fork enlargement for through-Delta risk assessment (deferred to Phase III).

Recreation Studies

Identify and evaluate issues, opportunities, and interaction with CALFED Program alternatives (deferred to Phase III).

Groundwater/Conjunctive Use Outreach Program

Critical Task Implement process for meeting with individual agencies to explore conjunctive use opportunities.

Delta and System Modeling Studies

Document and consolidate completed work;

Conduct sensitivity analysis;

Incorporate Artificial Neural Network into DWRSIM and complete sensitivity analyses for incorporation into the FEIS/R;

Critical Task Establish North Delta flood modeling capability and evaluate ERPP, storage and conveyance options, coordinate activities with the Corps of Engineers, Sacramento, and San Joaquin Counties;

Support model verification process;

Support development of a new DWRSIM engine (deferred to Phase III);

Critical Task Support the fishery diversion effects technical effort with analytical results; and

Refine and document operating assumptions.

EIS/R Support

Critical Task Assist with formulating responses to comments; and Participate in public outreach, meetings, and work shops as needed.

Deliverables - Various.

CALFED Lead - Mark Cowin

Agency Staffing -

Review Process - Storage and Conveyance Technical Team

2. Implementation Plan - Develop and present a strategic plan for implementing the features of the Storage and Conveyance Component. Recapitulate goals and objectives. Identify, develop, and refine conceptual models of system function. Describe basic resource enhancement strategies. Describe the physical features and resource management initiatives including adaptive management strategies and methods for assessing achievement to be implemented as part of this

component. Describe implementation sequencing requirements and possibilities. Identify prerequisites for and conditions that would trigger implementation of the various features and initiatives. Design a peer/scientific review process to support adaptive management implementation. Display estimated capital and recurring costs. Circulate draft plan for review and comment. **Deliverable - Draft report for incorporation into the Program Implementation Plan.**

CALFED Lead - Mark Cowin
Agency Staffing -
Review Process -

E. Restoration Programs - Major issues to be resolved to further develop this component include evaluation of fish diversion effects, development of strategic plan for ERPP implementation, development of a conservation strategy to support subsequent development of a habitat conservation plan and consultation pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, and continued coordination with other ongoing restoration programs, including Category III.

1. Fish Diversion Effects - The extent to which diversion effects in the South delta can or cannot be offset by major positive responses of target species to habitat improvements and other changes may significantly affect the choice of a preferred program alternative. Can target species recover while export pumping remains at 6 to 6.5 MAF/yr from the south Delta? What is the likelihood that target species will recover with through-Delta conveyance systems or with a dual conveyance system? While many believe that diversion effects are a major cause of fishery declines, others argue that diversion effects are not the primary cause. This task is intended to illuminate this issue to the extent possible.

For the DEIS/R, operating criteria were developed to reasonably represent conditions with and without program alternatives in place in order to evaluate the potential impacts of the alternatives. Additional refinement and definition of these criteria by the following subtasks is required to more fully evaluate the alternatives.

Critical Task a. Evaluate Fish Diversion Effects - Prepare a white paper describing the operations criteria assumed in the EIR/S and identifying the issues implied by the choice and definition of each individual operations criterion. Describe the time value of water concept as manifested by the operations of each program alternative. Identify and describe issues associated with establishing interim operations criteria for the period following completion of the FEIS/R. Consider extension of the Bay-Delta Accord, reliance on existing regulatory mechanisms, and potential new approaches. Submit the white paper to the Ops Group for consideration

and reaction. **Deliverable - White paper for consideration by the Ops Group and expert panel.**

CALFED Lead - Ron Ott
Agency Staffing - EPA (Herbold)
Review Process -

Critical Task b. Expert Panel Review - Convene an expert panel to review the status paper on fishery diversion effects prepared by Program/IDT staff, along with the white paper on interim operational criteria. Charge the panel with developing a summary of what is known and not known relative to this issue. Charge the panel with framing the issue in terms of policy and risk tradeoffs. **Deliverable - Report of findings and recommendations.**

CALFED Lead - Ron Ott
Agency Staffing -
Review Process - Expert Panel

2. Refine Ecosystem Restoration Plan - Refine and revise the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan based on comments received from reviewers of the draft Plan and the DEIS/R. Categorize comments received on the draft Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan and the DEIS/R relevant to the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan. Prepare responses to the comments and incorporate the responses, as appropriate, into the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan. Prepare a summary of the Plan targeted for the lay public. Develop ecological zone-specific implementation plans including implementation priorities and strategies at the ecological zone level in cooperation with local landowners, conservancy groups, and other stakeholders in each zone. **Deliverables - Revised Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan, Summary Document, and Ecological Zone Implementation Plans.**

CALFED Lead - Dick Daniel
Agency Staffing - EPA (Herbold, Hatfield)
Review Process -

3. ERPP Strategic Plan - The purpose of the ERPP Strategic Plan is to clearly articulate an integrated planning and scientific framework by which to successfully implement and evaluate restoration of the large and complex Bay-Delta ecosystem. The Strategic Plan will provide a comprehensive plan of action that will guide proposed restoration actions during development, revision, implementation, and post-implementation periods. The Strategic Plan will

provide a clear restoration strategy supported by continuously improving scientific information that will be tested and modified through adaptive management.

Working with a scientific review panel develop a strategic plan for implementing the Ecosystem Restoration Program. Prepare an initial problem statement and identify solution strategies. Develop guiding ecological principles, goals, and objectives. Prepare a summary ecosystem description, refine the initial problem statement and solution strategies, and develop hypotheses and conceptual models of the ecosystem. Define an adaptive management framework, recommend solution strategies and refine the overall management and implementation strategy. **Deliverable - Strategic plan.**

CALFED Lead - Dick Daniel
Agency Staffing - EPA (Herbold)
Review Process - Scientific Review Panel

4. Conservation Strategy - CALFED will comply with the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) through a formal consultation process pursuant to section 7 of the ESA and development of a habitat conservation plan (HCP) pursuant to section 10 of the ESA. CALFED will comply with the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) through development of a Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) pursuant to the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act. As a first step in implementing the ESA and CESA planning processes, CALFED will develop a conservation strategy. The conservation strategy will address all sensitive species and their habitats potentially affected by the CALFED Program, the effects of CALFED program actions on those species and habitats, and the minimization and mitigation measures needed to offset the anticipated adverse effects.

Develop conservation strategy matrices presenting impacts of CALFED program actions on each covered species and associated habitat to serve as the biological assessment for Section 7 consultation. Identify monitoring and adaptive management strategies to be implemented, and prepare a Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan for inclusion in the FEIS/R. **Deliverable - Conservation Strategy.**

CALFED Lead - Marty Kie
Agency Staffing - EPA (Hagler)
Review Process -

5. Restoration Coordination - The December 15, 1994 Bay-Delta Accord included a commitment to fund non-flow related ecosystem restoration actions to improve the health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. This commitment is commonly

referred to as *Category III*. Some of the factors to be addressed by *Category III* include unscreened diversions, waste discharges and water pollution prevention, fishery impacts due to harvest and poaching, land derived salts, exotic species, loss of riparian wetlands, and other causes of estuarine habitat degradation. Funding sources for *Category III* include Proposition 204, stakeholder contributions, and federal appropriations. CALFED has established a two-step process for evaluating and selecting proposed actions to be implemented under *Category III*. This process also coordinates funding from non-*Category III* sources.

With direction from the Integration Panel, experts from the scientific review panel, and the Ecosystem Roundtable; update and revise restoration priorities, identify resulting actions in each ecoregion, integrate actions into an overall implementation plan, identify potential funding mechanisms, and match actions with funding sources. Select and implement actions annually and provide project-specific input on the development of the monitoring program to be presented in the Strategic Plan. **Deliverable - Action Plan identifying actions to be implemented and associated funding sources.**

CALFED Lead - Cindy Darling
Agency Staffing - EPA (Schwinn, Herbold)
Review Process -

6. Continuing CMARP Activities - Design an environmental monitoring program based on an inventory of existing monitoring programs that identifies gaps. Select monitoring elements, develop processes for data management, interpretation, and reporting, and establish a process for monitoring the performance of approved *Category III* projects. Identify primary research questions and develop a focused research program and review process. Develop recommendations regarding the institutional structure and arrangements necessary for effective implementation of the monitoring program.

CALFED Lead -
Agency Staffing - IEP, USGS
Review Process -

7. Watershed Management - These tasks are intended to develop an efficient mechanism for coordinating the large number of existing, individual, widely separated, locally implemented watershed management efforts consistent with CALFED objectives and goals.

a. Conduct Stakeholder Workshops - During the Spring of 1998, conduct a series of focused workshops with local watershed management

groups, including local government agencies, watershed councils, stakeholders, and local communities and community groups to identify watershed management efforts that could significantly further CALFED objectives and goals. Identify how CALFED can effectively involve and communicate with local watershed groups. **Deliverable - Stakeholder workshops.**

CALFED Lead - Judy Heath
Agency Staffing - EPA (Ziegler)
Review Process -

b. Formulate Watershed Management Strategy - Based on the results of the stakeholder workshops, prepare a paper describing the CALFED watershed management strategy. Identify priority watershed management actions in terms of solutions to CALFED Bay-Delta Program problems. Identify involved agencies and timelines for implementation of watershed management actions. Identify and describe monitoring and adaptive management strategies related to watershed management actions. Describe the process by which an oversight/implementing authority will achieve CALFED goals and objectives related to watershed management. Describe a coordination framework for integrating watershed management efforts, developing partnerships between key agencies and local, stakeholder entities, and fostering local watershed management efforts through education and outreach. Describe the assurances potentially available to ensure the long-term sustainability of watershed management actions. Identify and compile existing and potential funding sources for watershed management actions. Develop a process to assemble, store, and disseminate information on watershed management actions through use or modification of existing databases, such as CERES. **Deliverable - Revised Position Paper on watershed management.**

CALFED Lead - Judy Heath
Agency Staffing -
Review Process -

8. Science Program - Identify and assemble a team of local experts and experts outside of the Bay-Delta to provide independent scientific review and input on the development of the ERPP Strategic Plan and other CALFED activities. Charge the team with reviewing and commenting on monitoring and research findings, indicators, models and testable hypotheses, species conservation strategies, adaptive management strategies, and other Core Team efforts.

CALFED Lead - Dick Daniel

*Agency Staffing -
Review Process -*

G. Water Transfers - These tasks will develop a water transfer policy framework intended to resolve the following major issues that currently limit the efficiency of a water transfer market: providing environmental, economic, and water resource protections; establishing consistent technical, operational, and administrative rules; and establishing transportation rules (e.g. wheeling and facility access). In addition, a strategy for implementing the recommended resolutions will be provided, including recommended assurance measures.

1. Water Transfer Policy Framework - These tasks will clarify CALFED Program policy regarding the role of water transfers in the Bay-Delta solution and provide recommended solutions to unresolved issues.

Critical Task a. Prepare a Water Transfer Policy White Paper -

Prepare a white paper describing recommended solution options for resolving identified issues currently limiting an efficient and protected water transfer market. The solution options may include the use of a water transfer 'clearinghouse' that would provide public disclosure as well as actively participate in information collection and analysis regarding specific transfers. Solution options may also be in the form of recommended legislative or regulatory changes. The BDAC Water Transfer Group, along with the Transfer Agency Group, will be actively involved with the development of recommended solution options. Working drafts of the white paper will be presented to both groups for their continual review and comment. The Transfer Agency Group will concentrate on developing potential solution options for technical, operational, and administrative rules. Solution options developed by the Transfer Agency Group will also be discussed and refined with the BDAC Water Transfer Work Group. **Deliverable - White paper to support water transfer public workshop on policy framework.**

Lead - Greg Young

Staffing Needs - EPA (Yoshikawa)

Consultant Needs -

b. Water Transfer Public Workshop on Policy Framework - Convene a public workshop to present the water transfer policy framework white paper and elicit public comment. Focus on informing the public of the recommended economic and resource protection solution options, and recommended approach to developing an accepted definition of

'transferable water.' **Deliverable - Report of findings and recommendations.**

Lead - Greg Young
Staffing Needs - EPA (Yoshikawa)
Consultant Needs -

c. Implementation Strategy - With input and advice from the Transfer Agency Group and the BDAC Water Transfer Work Group, develop a strategy for implementing the recommended solution options.

Deliverable - Draft report for incorporation into the Program Implementation Plan.

CALFED Lead - Greg Young
Agency Staffing -
Review Process -

Element 3 Prepare Environmental Documentation

A. Finalize EIS/R - These tasks will select a preferred program alternative and complete the programmatic environmental impact report (EIR), and the programmatic environmental impact statement (EIS) for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

Critical Task 1. Comment Period - Receive, catalog, and summarize comments on the Draft EIS/R and prepare responses to comments. Identify any new issues that require additional technical analysis in order to select a preferred program alternative. Schedule and staff any needed additional technical analyses, assess schedule impacts if any, and adjust the schedule as required. **Deliverable - Response to comments.**

CALFED Lead - Rick Breitenbach
Agency Staffing - Various, depending on nature and extent of comments received.
Review Process - Various, depending on nature and extent of comments received.

Critical Task 2. Select Preferred Program Alternative - Based on the contents of the Draft EIS/R, the comments received and the responses to comments, the individual program component implementation plans, the assurances development, and the developed understanding of the various relevant issues (e.g. bromides, seismic risk, fish diversion effects, etc.), evaluate the program

alternatives with respect to the solution principles and identify a preferred program alternative for implementation. Identify triggers and conditions for implementing or limiting various portions of the preferred alternative based on the observed performance of preceding portions, changed conditions, or improved understanding of technical or policy issues. Document the process of selecting this program alternative. **Deliverable - Description of the preferred program alternative and rationale for its selection for inclusion in the final EIS/R.**

CALFED Lead - Lester Snow
Agency Staffing - Various
Review Process - Policy Team/Management Team

3. Prepare Administrative Draft Final EIS/R - Prepare a final EIS/R containing the response to comments and describing the preferred program alternative for CALFED agency review and comment. **Deliverable - Administrative Draft EIS/R printed and distributed.**

CALFED Lead - Rick Breitenbach
Agency Staffing -
Review Process - Policy Team/Management Team

4. Final EIS/R - Prepare a final EIS/R containing the response to comments and describing the preferred program alternative. **Deliverable - Final EIS/R.**

CALFED Lead - Rick Breitenbach
Agency Staffing -
Review Process - Policy Team/Management Team

5. Prepare Mitigation/Monitoring Plan - Prepare a plan for developing and implementing the mitigation and monitoring commitments identified in the Final EIS/R. **Deliverable - Mitigation/Monitoring Plan.**

CALFED Lead - Rick Breitenbach
Agency Staffing -
Review Process -

6. Prepare Findings, Record of Decision, and Notice of Determination - Document the findings of the lead agencies, Record of Decision, and Notice of Decision per NEPA and CEQA respectively. Submit for lead agency review and comment.

CALFED Lead - Rick Breitenbach

*Agency Staffing -
Review Process - Policy Team/Management Team*

7. Finalize Findings, and Final Record of Decision and Notice of Determination - Based on agency comments and review of other comments on the Final EIS/R, finalize the findings, Record of Decision, and Notice of Determination. Arrange for appropriate filing and publication.

*CALFED Lead - Rick Breitenbach
Agency Staffing -
Review Process - Policy Team/Management Team*