

Agency Revision Team



Memorandum

Date: July 8, 1998
To: CALFED Policy Group
From: Lester A. Snow
Executive Director *[Signature]*
Subject: Adding Suisun Marsh Levees to CALFED Program

Summary

An issue has been raised by the Department of Fish and Game in the Agency Revision Team (ART) regarding the expansion of the CALFED Program to include the levees in the Suisun Marsh. This issue was discussed by ART but concurrence was not reached; therefore, the issue is being elevated to the CALFED Policy Group for decision. DFG proposes all of Suisun Marsh levees be included in the levee program. CALFED Program staff recommends that a decision be delayed until information is obtained on the costs and benefits of doing so, and clarifying the linkages to the CALFED objectives.

This issue was discussed at the July 1 CALFED Management Team meeting. Management Team generally supported the addition of the levees in the Suisun Marsh (Option 1) but asked that additional information be provided at the Policy Group meeting on: (1) the linkages of Suisun Marsh levees to the CALFED mission and objectives, and (2) the feasibility of adding the levees in the time frame of the Revised Draft EIS/R.

Detailed Discussion

The ART was established to discuss and if possible resolve issues that the CALFED agencies have regarding the CALFED Program and Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR. If issues could not be resolved by ART, then those issues would be elevated to the CALFED Management Team and Policy Group for resolution. ART has discussed and resolved or established a process to resolve numerous issues. At this time one issue has been identified that needs to be elevated for resolution. Additional issues may be elevated at the next Management Team and Policy Group meetings.

CALFED Agencies

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

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Please see the attachment for discussion of the issue including background, description of the options and pros and cons of each option.

Action

The Policy Group is being asked to make a decision on one of the options described in the Attachment. The DFG has proposed Option 1 to include all of the Suisun Marsh in the levee program (except for the subsidence control and seismic risk portions of the program).

CALFED Program staff recommends Option 3 — Delay a decision until additional information on the benefits and linkages to the CALFED objectives and the costs of adding the Suisun Marsh levees is available (early 1999 before Final EIS/R).

Attachment