

DRAFT**Ecosystem Restoration Strategic Plan
Core Team**

In May 1998, the CALFED Bay-Delta Program engaged a team of six scientists and planners (core team) to develop a strategic plan for use in ecosystem restoration. The strategic plan is a big step forward in the science element of the Ecosystem Restoration Program. Their working draft is now out for Agency and BDAC Ecosystem Work Group review.

The working draft contains a discussion of the role of adaptive management which has general support as the procedural format for the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration approach. There is a historical perspective which will contrast present conditions and trends and provides insight and constraint on our desire to restore ecological processes and functions.

The draft contains a refined set of strategic goals. These have been expanded to specifically cover invasive or exotic species and toxins. The strategic objectives will serve to replace the implementation objectives in the current draft Volume II of the ERPP. These objectives are more comprehensive and take us several steps closer to having "quantified performance measures." The section on exotic species is particularly ambitious and warrants careful review by CALFED agencies.

There are sections on staged implementation, conceptual models and the ecosystem approach which provide validation of the planning effort incorporated by CALFED.

The adaptive management chapter places great emphasis on the use of the scientific method and science in the program. The section on institutional considerations embellishes the work done in the BDAC Assurances Work Group and, again, emphasizes science, in particular independent science.

Chapter 8 speaks to regulatory compliance needs. Originally, this chapter contained substantial material on assurances. Some of the material was in conflict with developing CALFED policy. All of the material was considered to be in the arena of the Assurances Work Group. The Ecosystem program manager edited out all of the assurances material. This has upset the team of scientists as well as the author. We will take the appropriate steps to resolve the concerns and reestablish a professional relationship.

Comments are due by September 30, 1998 and a revised draft is scheduled to be released in mid-October. Comments on the Strategic Plan will be discussed at the October 1 CALFED Management Team meeting.