



M e m o r a n d u m

Date: December 10, 1998

To: CALFED Policy Group

From: Lester A. Snow *K. Hauser for LAS*
Executive Director

Subject: Status of Draft Preferred Alternative and Actions for 1999

Draft Preferred Alternative

Since the November 3 release of the revised draft Phase II Report, there has been ongoing refinement of the Draft Preferred Alternative as shown in the revised Phase II Report dated December 9, 1998. The December 9 version is enclosed in this mailing, however, I expect most of the agencies have received copies earlier. This version shows the status of comments and edits from the November 3, 1998 version.

We are quickly approaching the December release of the revised draft Phase II Report. At this time, the public release date is scheduled for Friday, December 18. The stakeholder meetings with Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and the Governor's Chief of Staff George Dunn have been very successful in reaching agreement in many areas and in identifying those issues that will need to be further discussed and resolved in 1999. At the most recent "Babbitt/Dunn" meeting stakeholders were asked to provide comments to CALFED on the December 9 revised draft Phase II Report by Friday, December 11.

At the December CALFED Policy Group meeting, CALFED staff will provide an overview of the major changes in the revised draft Phase II Report that have been made since the November 3 version. In addition, the details of the December 18 public release will be provided and the schedule for public workshops in January.

Action: Information/Discussion Item

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

1999 Actions

CALFED Program 1999 Actions to Complete Phase II. As CALFED moves into 1999, attention needs to turn to the many issues and activities that will need to be resolved and/or completed to prepare for both the revised draft EIR/EIS release and the final Record of Decision. For example, in the December 9 version of the revised draft Phase II Report both the Assurances and Finance sections refer to 1999 Actions which need to be completed prior to the ROD. There are also actions and issues in most of the other program elements as well. CALFED staff will initiate a discussion of these actions and issues at the December Policy Group meeting.

Other 1999 Actions. As discussed over the past few months at Policy Group meetings there are numerous actions that should occur in 1999 to show progress related to the CALFED Program. The Policy Group developed a list of 1998-99 Actions and Assurances and assigned lead CALFED agency staff on each item. In several cases those actions have been completed, are proceeding, or have been incorporated into the CALFED Program work effort of 1999. At the December Policy Group meeting an update will be provided on two of the actions -- the status of long-term joint point of diversion and the 1999 Operations Plan for the SWP and CVP.

Action: Information /Discussion