

**Water Quality
1999 Workplan Summary**

February 1, 1999

1. Refine Water Quality Actions, Action Priorities, and Establish Interim Water Quality Targets.

Proposed is an interim structure to prepare for the Water Quality Program Stage I Actions (Figure 1). Interim management teams composed of CALFED agency and key stakeholder representatives would oversee refinement of the Water Quality Program, establish priorities for action, and establish interim water quality targets to demonstrate continual water quality improvement during the first stage of program implementation.

2. Determine how the Water Quality Program would be funded in the short term and managed, funded, and administered over the full 30 year course of the program. .

Specific Tasks - Logistics and Coordination:

- Quantify funding needs at increasing levels of detail as the program progresses
- Identify relevant existing programs and funding sources
- Identify new funding opportunities through federal, state, and regional/local partnerships
- Recommend legislation as necessary to provide required funding
- Work with authors of legislation to develop legislative packages
- Develop agreements and understandings with regulatory agencies to provide assurance of appropriate coordination with the Water Quality Program
- Provide recommendations to CALFED management and Policy Group

Specific Tasks - Technical

- Evaluate CMARP information and provide interpretive analyses and recommendations to other Water Quality Work Teams
- Respond to requests from other Water Quality Work Teams for technical information, analyses, and interpretations
- Perform environmental impact analyses and write project environmental impact documents

3. Develop specific plans for implementing Water Quality Program actions. A work plan for implementing the first stage of the Water Quality Program should be prepared. This will be accomplished by first organizing technical teams in each of the main Water Quality Program action categories - Mine Drainage, Urban and Industrial Runoff, Agricultural Drainage and Runoff, and Drinking Water - and then by receiving their input for developing a work plan. The Water Quality Program technical teams will identify priority actions for commencement in 1999, and gain management approval of these priorities. When this is accomplished, work teams will be tasked to develop detailed work plans, including specific tasks to be accomplished, recommendations on which entities should implement actions, and resources required. These work plans will be developed with the oversight of CALFED management.

Specific Tasks - Mine Drainage Team:

- Inventory all abandoned mines in the Bay Delta watershed known to cause environmental problems for which responsible parties are wholly or partially unavailable
- Identify information needs and initiate information collection activities
- Rank "best projects" with regard to appropriateness of CALFED involvement and quantity of benefit to be achieved versus project cost
- Recommend implementing entity
- Prepare and/or oversee preparation of remediation plans and proposals
- Perform feasibility testing and evaluation
- Oversee implementation of pilot scale project

Specific Tasks - Urban and Industrial Team

- Categorize and quantify non-point source discharges in terms of quantity and water quality impacts
- Identify research and monitoring needs and initiate information collection
- Perform a comprehensive survey of local/state/federal programs, identifying agencies engaged in source prevention and control activities
- Identify the highest priority projects for CALFED involvement, based on the quantity of water quality benefit to be derived, cost of achieving the benefit, and inability of other entities to correct problems
- Encourage formation of partnerships among governmental and private interests by recommending creation of appropriate incentives

Specific Tasks - Agricultural Drainage and Runoff Team

- Quantitatively assess impacts of agricultural drainage on Delta water quality
- Identify needs for information collection and initiate collection efforts
- Prepare, and oversee preparation of, plans, specifications and proposals for water quality projects to reduce impacts of agricultural drainage
- Provide technical advice and oversight in feasibility testing and evaluation, pilot scale testing, and full scale implementations of projects

Specific Tasks - Drinking Water Team

- Identify research and information needs and initiate collection efforts
- Identify opportunities for beneficial CALFED involvement in source water quality improvement activities
- Recommend research into human health effects of Delta drinking water supplies
- Recommend research and development of drinking water treatment technologies to effectively treat Delta water supplies
- Identify the highest priority projects for CALFED involvement, based on the quantity of drinking water quality benefit to be derived, cost of achieving the benefit, and inability of other entities to correct problems
- Prepare and oversee preparation of plans, specifications and proposals for drinking water quality improvement projects

- Provide technical oversight of feasibility testing, pilot scale, and full scale project implementation, and formulate recommendations to CALFED management of adaptive management actions to improve the success of CALFED drinking water quality actions

Specific Tasks - Independent Experts

- Organize panels of independent scientific experts to provide scientific review and comment on CALFED work products related to drinking water quality and to ecosystem water quality.
- Identify information needs and recommend actions to initiate collection of the needed information
- The drinking water panel should evaluate planned projects and recommend implementation priorities based on health effects and chemical behavior of disinfection byproducts, treatment technology, source control options and regulatory developments
- Review and comment on plans for CALFED drinking water quality and ecosystem water quality improvement projects
- Provide independent scientific review of project implementation, evaluate the success of projects, and recommend adaptive management actions as necessary to maximize the success of CALFED projects
- Periodically, provide broad, independent scientific review of the entire drinking water quality and ecosystem water quality elements of the CALFED Program and provide CALFED management recommendations for improving the overall success of the Program

Process for Stakeholder and Agency Involvement

Depending on the area of expertise and interest, involved agencies would include the State Water Resources Control Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards 2 and 5, State Attorney General, EPA, Department of Pesticide Regulation, Department of Food and Agriculture, Department of Water Resources, Department of Health Services, US Geological Survey, and the State Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. Stakeholders may involve mine remediation businesses, responsible parties, environmental advocates, permit holders, business and urban water agencies, agricultural chemical industry representatives, Delta agricultural interests, State Water Contractors, CVP Contractors, watershed groups and others.

Timeframe

By May 1999, the following is planned:

- Work Teams are organized and plans for coordination occurs.
- Staffing and funding needs are assessed and plans are initiated for short-term funding, staffing and logistics.
- Participation with CMARP occurs.
- Water Quality analyses and evaluations are initiated.
- Environmental documentation including the development of QA/QC Plans is initiated.

Work Teams tasks -

- Good Samaritan issue resolution is initiated which may involve a legislative or administrative approach.
- Mines in the Upper Sacramento River, its Tributaries, in the Delta, and the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins are identified.
- Information needs are assessed and data collection is initiated.
Quality of discharges is assessed and opportunities for reducing pollutant loads identified
- Formulation of projects to improve treatment and reduce sources is initiated.
- Formulation of partnerships for funding and performing corrective and preventative actions is initiated.
- Development of priority list of projects for CALFED involvement is initiated.
- Development of plans for pilot scale testing of Delta island drainage treatment for organic carbon begins.
- Plans for encouraging or participating in sanitary actions in SWP and CVP watersheds are initiated.

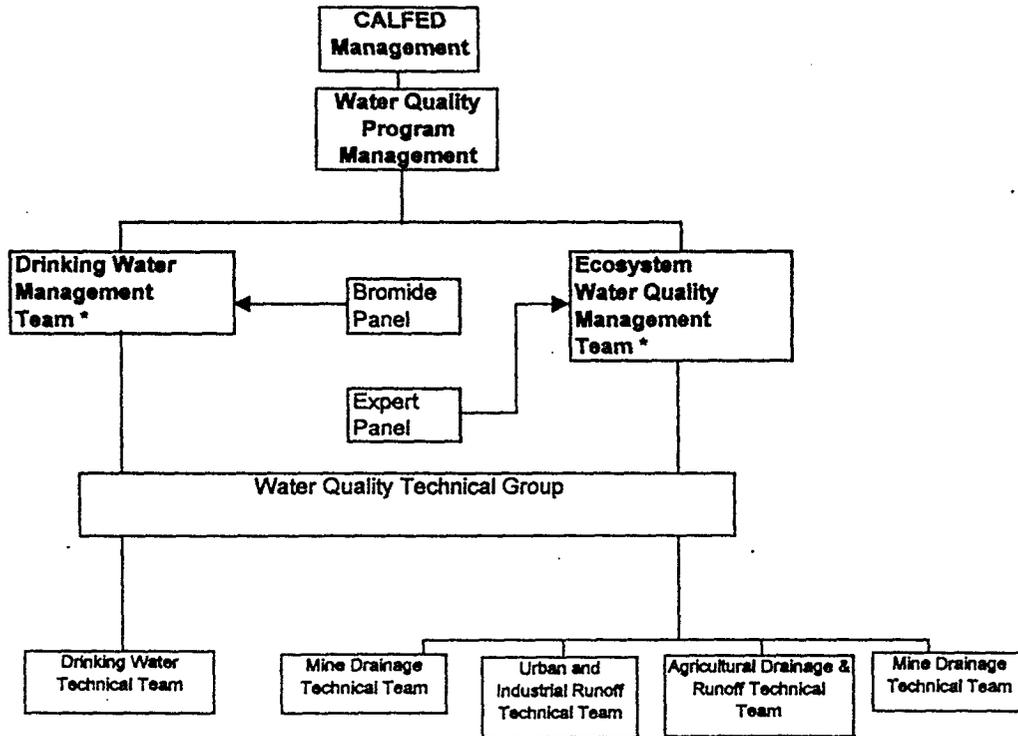
By the Record of Decision, the following is expected to occur:

- Work Team efforts (above) initiated before May 1999 will progress and continue to be coordinated.
- Priority actions, corrective and preventative measures are identified.
- Technical and economic feasibility analysis of Water Quality projects occurs.
- A plan is developed for intermediate funding, staffing and logistics - (funding sources, implementation agencies, fiscal oversight and accountability, quality assurance/control, and any legislation).
- Environmental documentation, engineering plans, and costs estimates are developed.
- A year end report to management presenting refined Year 2000 workplan, intermediate and long term funding, staffing and logistics plans occurs.
- Analyses of CMARP data and research, including quality assurance/control evaluations continues.
- Evaluation of water quality actions and report to management to enable adaptive management actions to be taken in a timely and effective manner.
- Technical and administrative oversight of Water Quality actions occurs.
Progress reports to management are made.

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FIGURE 1

Proposed Structure for Implementing the CALFED Water Quality Program



* Interim management teams are precursors to the Delta Drinking Water Council and an equivalent structure to manage ecosystem water quality program actions

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