

# 1999 Critical Issues and Actions

February 4, 1999

1. **EWA/DNCT**
  - Determine how the EWA could be structured and operated. Resolve the major issues listed in the Phase II Report regarding structure, operation, payment, and sharing of the benefits of the EWA.
  - Establish a pilot program in 1999 (pre-ROD).
  - Continue the Quinn/Spear (or equivalent) and DNCT process.
  
2. **Water Management Strategy**
  - Define specific water management objectives.
  - Define the performance of the water management tools, individually and in combination, to achieve the objectives.
  - Address supply/demand projections.
  - Develop adaptive water management strategy responsive to the uncertainty of future conditions.
  - Establish a policy level agency/stakeholder team.
  
3. **Governance**
  - Define the institutional structure for overall CALFED program management and coordination, and for management of each program element.
  - Resolve whether to proceed with legislative proposals in 1999 on the overall governance or only the ecosystem entity.
  - Establish policy level stakeholder/agency small group, continue BDAC workgroup for governance.
  
4. **Financing**
  - Refine Stage I cost estimates for each program element.
  - Identify existing funding sources (state/federal/private) that can be used or counted towards CALFED Stage I efforts.
  - Complete a new financing plan, including funding sources and budget.
  - Resolve financial principles-- regarding level and method of public and user funding , ability to pay and crediting policy.
  - Establish a policy level agency/stakeholder team to report to BDAC and Policy Group.
  
5. **Water Use Efficiency**
  - Agricultural issues: Develop regional measurable objectives, develop ag incentive program, define "appropriate" measurement, define role of AWMC. Continue Ag Focus Group.
  - Urban Issues: Determine appropriate water conservation plan certification process.
  - Managed Wetlands: Complete management plan (ICP) for managed wetlands.
  - Water Recycling: Develop incentive program.

**6. Water Transfers**

- Complete Strategic Plan.
- Resolve need for new water rights legislation.
- Water Transfer Information Clearinghouse--decide if legislation needed and if so draft legislation.
- Develop expedited approval process.
- Transferable Water Definitions--disclose current guidelines, recommend improvement/clarifications.
- Develop methodology for tracking and accounting for instream flow transfers.
- Conveyance Capacity--Develop process to calculate unused and available conveyance capacity, disclosure of availability, and process to respond to requests.

**7. Section 404/401 and Section 10 Compliance Strategy**

- Develop streamlined early permitting process for initial Stage I actions.
- Develop programmatic assurances regarding a process by which the surface storage facilities and Delta conveyance facilities will be evaluated. Interagency MOA will be developed which will provide a strategic framework for the compliance strategy.
- Narrow the range of surface and groundwater storage facilities.
- Resolve need for new surface storage.

**8. Conservation Strategy**

- Complete text of Programmatic Conservation Strategy by Draft PEIS/R.
- Develop GIS capability to assist in completion of the Strategy.
- Develop tiered ESA/CESA/NCCPA documentation for priority Stage I actions.
- Establish a policy level Agency team and policy level agency/stakeholder team to coordinate with technical effort and report to Policy Group.

**9. Stage I Priorities**

- Identify high priority actions for Stage I bundles.
- Identify which actions will be ready for prompt implementation after the signing of the ROD, and in 1999 begin or continue planning efforts to ensure prompt implementation. For example: South Delta Improvements.
- Define how actions will be linked or coordinated to provide balanced improvement.
- Identify funding and implementation actions necessary to move forward with high priority actions.

**10. Water Quality**

- Establish Action Priorities.
- Establish Interim Water Quality Targets.
- Implementation planning--acquire funding, determine agency roles, coordinate agency regulatory responsibilities, organize work teams, develop detailed action plans, and establish expert panels.
- Establish two policy level agency and stakeholder teams.

**11. CMARP**

- CMARP refinement--monitoring strategy linked to Stage I, research program, organizational structure, link between conservation strategy and ecosystem program.
- Category III--develop peer review process of early ecosystem projects
- Focused Issues/Actions--additional review/coordination with DEFT, fish screen evaluations, hatchery marking, municipal source water quality, non-indigenous species, streamflow network.
- Data Management Assessment and Reporting--develop link between data and management decisions.