

E-005486



## Memorandum

Date: May 6, 1999

To: CALFED Policy Group

From: Lester A. Snow

Subject: Description of Preferred Programmatic Alternative, Schedule for Completing the Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR and Description of the Content of the EIS/R.

### Summary

Several items are included in this document. We are seeking concurrence on the description of the preferred programmatic alternative and with moving forward with printing and releasing of the draft programmatic EIS/EIR (DRAFT) in June. The schedule and contents of the Draft are provided as informational items.

### Detailed Discussion

#### Preferred Programmatic Alternative

The attached CALFED Program Decision is a general summary of the information that will be contained in the Phase II Report and Implementation Plan being prepared for the Draft. The CALFED Program Decision has been reviewed and concurred in by the Small Group with the provision that we expand the paragraphs, on page 2, describing the Water Management Strategy and Environmental Water Account. This additional information has not been added in order to ensure you had this package in advance of the meeting. A revised package will be available on the day of the meeting.

The CALFED Program Decision contains a succinct description, in Section A, of the program actions being evaluated in the impact analysis document. This description of actions, which make up the Preferred Program Alternative, will be included in the impact analysis document of the Draft. Initially, the description of the Preferred Program Alternative was put together as a stand alone document. In developing this narrative it became obvious that a description of the program actions required some context to allow the agencies and stakeholders to better understand the relationship between the Preferred Programmatic Alternative and how the Program elements will be carried out over the life of

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#### 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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the program as well as the types of actions to be implemented and a tentative schedule for doing so. Accordingly, the Program Decision includes a summary of this information in Sections B and C.

Printing of the Draft

To meet the June 25<sup>th</sup> release date for the DRAFT, the Program will begin to print June 1, 1999. By the time of the Policy Group Meeting we will be able to share agency comments relative to the impact analysis document and the various program plans. While we anticipate that we will receive agency comments requiring some adjustments to our impact analysis document and program plans, we believe there will be support for the release of the draft in June.

**Concurrence Item**

We are seeking the Policy Group's concurrence with the description of the preferred programmatic alternative and printing and release of the Draft in June.

Attachments