



Memorandum

Date: June 16, 1999

To: CALFED Policy Group

From: Lester A. Snow

Subject: Message Points for Draft EIS/EIR Release

This memo contains bullet points describing CALFED's message and the contents of the CALFED Program Plan. These points will help in presenting a consistent message and description of the Plan as we talk with agencies, stakeholders, and the media.

Message Points

- **Solving Bay-Delta problems is crucial.** A plan to resolve Bay-Delta problems is crucial to Californians' health and prosperity. Ecosystem restoration is an essential part of the plan, both to protect the unique natural resources of the Bay-Delta and to improve water supply reliability.
- **CALFED Plan is comprehensive.** CALFED's program plan includes strategies to solve problems in four interrelated resource areas: ecosystem restoration, water quality, levee system integrity, water supply reliability.
- **Plan development is collaborative.** The CALFED program plan is the result of unprecedented collaboration among state and federal agencies and stakeholders. Example: *fifteen* hearings on the Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR.
- **Plan offers improvements for all interests.** Water suppliers, agriculture, business, the environment will all see improvements with CALFED implementation.
- **2 + 2 = 5.** Most program actions will help solve problems in more than one resource area. A comprehensive solution is more efficient, more broadly supported, more successful than previous more narrowly focused efforts.

CALFED Agencies

<p>California</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Resources Agency Department of Fish and Game Department of Water Resources California Environmental Protection Agency State Water Resources Control Board Department of Food and Agriculture 	<p>Federal</p>	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Protection Agency Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service Bureau of Reclamation U.S. Geological Survey Bureau of Land Management U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service U.S. Forest Service Department of Commerce National Marine Fisheries Service Western Area Power Administration
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Program Content

- **CALFED Phase II Products.** CALFED has issued a draft programmatic EIS/EIR describing a preferred program alternative. After public hearings and program refinement, CALFED will select a final preferred program alternative, issue a final programmatic EIS/EIR, Record of Decision, and Certification.
- **Implementation Planning.** Concurrently with EIS/EIR preparation, CALFED is planning for implementation over a period of 30 years or more. Actions are being outlined for Stage 1 (the first seven years of implementation) and identified specifically for Stage 1a (the first two years).
- **The Preferred Program Alternative.** The PPA is a CALFED Plan that includes both actions and studies, carried out in a context of adaptive management. This means that actions will be structured to test hypotheses about how to solve Bay-Delta problems, with subsequent actions modified according to what is learned.
- **CALFED Strategies and Program Elements.** The CALFED Plan includes strategies for solving problems in four resource areas:

Ecosystem Restoration	Water Quality
Water Supply Reliability	Levee System Integrity

Program actions included in the strategies are drawn from eight elements:

Ecosystem Restoration	Water Quality
Water Use Efficiency	Watershed Management
Water Transfers	Levee System Integrity
Storage	Conveyance

Three of the strategies (ecosystem, water quality, levees) have corresponding program elements. The fourth strategy is CALFED's Water Management Strategy for water supply reliability, which is still being refined.

- **Water Management Strategy.** This strategy will provide a long-term decision-making framework for improving water supply reliability, relying on many program elements. Like other parts of the CALFED Plan, the Water Management Strategy will include some actions that are ready for implementation or project level environmental review (conservation, recycling, transfers, water quality improvements, south Delta modifications) and some studies (storage, other conveyance modifications).
- **Environmental Water Account.** One early application of the CALFED Water Management Strategy will be an Environmental Water Account. The EWA is based on the

concept that flexible management of water could achieve fishery and ecosystem benefits more efficiently than a completely prescriptive regulatory approach. The optimum approach may include standards to provide a broad baseline of ecosystem protection and address certain specific needs. The EWA can then “fine-tune” environmental protection guided by real-time monitoring. As envisioned, assets including water and money would be managed for the benefit of fish just as water managers now use such assets for the benefit of other water users. CALFED will implement and evaluate an EWA in Stage 1 and, based on performance, consider whether and to what extent the EWA can subsequently be applied to a broader range of regulatory programs protecting Bay-Delta resources.

- **Integrated Storage Investigation.** CALFED and the CALFED agencies will carry out a comprehensive assessment of alternative storage options and their utility to overall water management. Parts of the Integrated Storage Investigation will include these evaluations:

Surface Storage Investigations	Groundwater/Conjunctive Use Programs
Power Facilities Reoperation	Fish Migration Barrier Removal

The Integrated Storage Investigation will extend into the implementation phase of CALFED. New storage will be developed, together with aggressive implementation of water conservation, water recycling, and water transfers as appropriate to meet CALFED goals.

- **Conveyance.** CALFED’s draft preferred program alternative includes through-Delta conveyance with some modifications to Delta channels. In the south Delta, actions include a new screened intake to Clifton Court Forebay, a new screened diversion at Tracy and/or expansion of Clifton Court, and operable barriers to improve conditions for migrating salmon and improve south Delta water quality and stage conditions. In the north Delta, study and evaluate a screened diversion on the Sacramento River or equivalent water quality actions to improve drinking water quality and protect public health. If other Program actions are not achieving drinking water quality goals and a screened diversion of up to 4000 cfs would help achieve goals without adversely affecting fish, construct a pilot facility.
- **Future Conveyance Actions.** The PPA includes a process for determining the conditions under which any additional water management or conveyance actions such as an isolated facility might be constructed, based on CALFED progress toward meeting measurable drinking water quality objectives and/or CALFED progress toward ecosystem restoration objectives, with particular emphasis on fisheries recovery.
- **Financing the Program.** CALFED has drafted a finance plan that lays the initial groundwork for financing the Program. A fundamental philosophy is that costs should, to the extent possible, be paid by beneficiaries of the Program actions. Other funding will come from state and federal appropriations and bonds. The preliminary estimate is that Stage 1 Program costs will exceed \$5 billion.