





## Memorandum

Date: November 3, 1999  
To: CALFED Policy Group  
From: Steve Ritchie  
Acting Executive Director   
Subject: Upper Yuba River Studies Program Update

### Summary

CALFED has begun an innovative stakeholder driven process in the Yuba River watershed to determine if introduction of wild chinook salmon and steelhead to the Upper Yuba River watershed is biologically, environmentally, and socio-economically feasible over the long-term. This program is guided by a large and diverse working group comprised of over 50 members, alternates, and technical advisors representing local business and property owners, recreationists, environmental advocates, water suppliers, power producers, and state and federal agencies. The Work Group is divided into three smaller focus teams (Lake, River, and Agency). Facilitation is provided at each full Work Group meeting and facilitation is offered for the many individual team meetings.

The process implemented in the Upper Yuba River Study Program is of interest as CALFED will likely be involved in other equally controversial issues during its short- and long-term implementation phases. The Upper Yuba process is one example of how affected stakeholders can be fully engaged and effective in defining the issues and scopes of studies for feasibility analyses related to potential projects. The Upper Yuba process is managed by CALFED staff but is generally controlled by the participants.

Thus far, the process has proven to be an effective tool to identify issues, recruit potentially affected parties, promote open and frank discussions of the issues, provide a venue for conflict resolution, and keep stakeholders informed at every step of the developing process.

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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  
Department of Food and Agriculture

**Federal**  
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

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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**Action**

Information Item: The attached Upper Yuba River Studies Program newsletter provides more detail on the study area, major Work Group agreements, the key issues and concerns, and a list of participants. In addition, every document developed by the Work Group is available to the public online at the CALFED web site.

Three members of the Upper Yuba River Work Group (Dave Munro, Skipper's Cove Marina; Shawn Garvey, South Yuba River Citizen's League; and Terry Mills, CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program) will present a brief history of the Upper Yuba River Studies Program and provide their assessment of the process in which they are participating. They will be followed by Brad Shinn (facilitator, Public Affairs Management) who will provide a technical assessment of the Work Group process.

Attachment