

DRAFT

Establishment of Institution for Integrated Long-Term Water Management

Description

Water resources planning and management in California is accomplished through a network of state and federal water agencies and regional and local water districts. This category involves either planning coordination of existing water agencies and districts or creation of an institution responsible for comprehensive, integrated management of water supplies and related environmental resources. These changes can take place either through encouragement (incentives) or through legislation (regulations).

This category includes the following actions:

- establish long-term guarantees for management,
- establish an institution to implement guarantees,
- coordinate multiagency roles in management,
- coordinate groundwater/surface water management, and
- establish incentives for cooperation/coordination.

Purpose

The establishment of an institution for integrated long-term water management would be intended to produce more efficient and effective water management that implements and guarantees the long-term solution to problems of the Bay-Delta system. Specifically this institution would provide a forum for the resolution of conflicts between ecosystem quality and water supply in the Bay-Delta system.

Constraints

Existing agencies and systems have considerable political history and precedence for water resource allocation and management (e.g., water rights). Any new institutional arrangement must evolve from more historical precedents.

Linkages to Other CALFED Action Categories

The establishment of an institution for long-term water planning actions could serve to coordinate, guarantee, and implement solution actions in all other categories.