



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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Date: November 7, 1996
To: CALFED Members
From: Lester A. Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
Subject: EIR/EIS Schedule Adjustment

Summary

We have revised the schedule for the EIR/EIS. The previous schedule indicated that the public draft would be prepared in the summer of 1997 and that the final document would be submitted to the public in the summer of 1998. In the current schedule, public release of the draft has been moved forward to fall of 1997, release of the final remains unchanged. Schedule and related effort adjustments will require additional attention by CALFED members.

EIR/EIS Schedule Adjustments

The schedule was revised in response to concerns by stakeholders and agencies that the program was moving ahead to rapidly as well as recognition by the Program that additional time would be needed to develop the alternative components. Component development efforts were extended ninety working days which resulted in a schedule shift for the public draft EIR/EIS (public review now begins 11/97 rather than 8/97). Release of the final did not slip an equal amount (commencement of public review remains July, 1998) because we cut about 90 days out of the schedule between preparation of the draft and public review of the final. Items cut include:

- one of the two scheduled administrative drafts for both the public draft and final EIR/EISs - 60 days;
- time required for printing the draft and final EIR/EIS - 10 days;
- time for public review of the draft and final EIR/EIS - 19 days. Public review of the draft now is 60 days and the final 30 days;

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
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

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Ramifications

The administrative drafts are the in-house copies, circulated for comments and adjustments before sending out the public review versions. The elimination of administrative drafts means that the first and only version has to be very good so that the amount of comments/concerns are minimal. In order to have a good administrative draft, CALFED members are going to have to become even more involved in all aspects of the program from alternative development to impact analysis to document preparation to ensure that we can move on to the public draft and final versions in a timely manner.