

## Proposed CALFED Watershed Management Policy Statement

The CALFED Bay Delta Program promotes wise stewardship of natural resources balanced with economic and other societal considerations. The Program supports collaborative decision-making at the local level, point source and nonpoint pollution source control programs, and the overall reduction of water quality degradation which adversely impacts beneficial uses.

CALFED supports watershed management as an integrated approach to restore and protect aquatic ecosystems, protect human health, and protect all beneficial uses of the waters of the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary. Watershed management includes a wide range of activities designed to restore ecological health. It includes forest management to control erosion, to improve water yield, and to reduce fuels, as well as stream and meadow restoration to reduce erosion, to improve habitat, and to increase base flows.

The basis for the CALFED watershed management process is to protect beneficial uses of water while promoting effectiveness and efficiency. The Program will place emphasis on the main river courses and side streams draining to the Bay-Delta Estuary, and downstream of State Water Project, Central Valley Project, and other headwaters dams. This effort complies with the CALFED objectives toward a long-term solution to problems affecting the Bay-Delta system. Other areas will be evaluated for study on a case-by-case basis.

The Program supports sound scientific investigations and pilot programs to develop and demonstrate methods for protecting and enhancing beneficial uses of Bay-Delta Estuary waters. An important component of CALFED support for technical studies is to assure development of adequate technical documentation to support decision making and the long-term adaptive management process.

CALFED watershed management activities will be fully coordinated with existing watershed management programs affecting the Bay-Delta Estuary, such as the State Water Resources Control Board's Sacramento River Watershed Program, the Sacramento County and City's Sacramento River Toxic Pollutant Control Program, and the Sacramento Regional County's Sanitation District Sacramento River Toxic Pollutant Control Program. In addition, multiple Coordinated Resource Management groups will be coordinated with to ensure their comprehensive involvement.

Under the recently passed Proposition 204, funding for watershed management activities may be available to match with other resources including those from grants authorized under sections 104, 106, 205, and 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act. Watershed management projects may also be eligible for funding under Category III of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act.

As the CALFED Bay-Delta Program evolves, program staff plan to devote a large part of their energies to coordinating the efforts of others engaged in watershed management activities to assure consistent and efficient efforts toward attaining pollution source control in the watershed of the Bay-Delta Estuary.