

CALFED Bay-Delta Program Early Implementation Information Paper

February 26, 1997

This paper has been prepared in response to numerous questions regarding the possible early implementation of specific projects which are part of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program (Program) alternatives, and the need to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Based on preliminary review of NEPA and CEQA regulations, agencies can pursue projects which are part of the Program alternatives, and as such are being addressed within the Programmatic EIR/EIS independent from its completion (see 40CFR 1506.1(c)). However, any of these projects which may significantly affect the environment must:

- be justified independently of the Program by the lead agencies for that project;
- be accompanied by an adequate environmental document, the preparation of which includes consultation with responsible and trustee agencies; and
- not prejudice the ultimate decision on the Program.

Except for the last item listed, these same constraints apply to projects which are associated with, but not specifically included within the Program. An example would be those projects approved and funded by the Category III program.