



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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Date: July 15, 1997
To: Program Coordination Team Members
From: Frank Piccola
Subject: Habitat Conservation Plan Update

1. The CALFED agencies intend to prepare an HCP and apply for an incidental take permit, pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). The HCP planning process ensures that the effects of incidental take are avoided, minimized or mitigated to the extent practicable. If an HCP is approved and an incidental take permit issued, non-federal members of CALFED would receive assurances commensurate with the level of detail provided regarding potential Phase III actions.
2. The CALFED Program has initiated discussions with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Department of Fish and Game regarding the preparation of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). Since May, there have been three coordination meetings. Progress to date has been gratifying.
 - The Services, DFG and CALFED staff have reached consensus on the approach and process for preparation of the HCP. A matrix has been developed which can be used to display the effect of potential CALFED actions on special status species as well as potential mitigation, if appropriate. This matrix would be the backbone of the HCP.
 - A Notice of Intent (NOI)/Notice of Preparation (NOP) is being prepared to supplement the NOI published in 1996 announcing the intent to prepare a joint Programmatic EIS/R. This supplemental NOI/NOP would announce the intention to use the Programmatic EIS/R as the NEPA support document for the HCP. The NOI is scheduled to be published in August.
 - A series of public scoping meetings would be held during late summer and early fall (August and September) in conjunction with other CALFED meetings to solicit input from the public on the HCP.

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

Program Coordination Team Members

July 15, 1997

Page Two

- The schedule for preparation of the HCP would parallel the EIS/R process. The draft EIS/R would contain a description of the HCP approach and process as well as results of the public scoping. The final EIS/R would contain the full HCP and permit determination.
3. The CALFED agencies through the PCT will be updated regularly concerning the progress of the HCP.