



**CALFED  
BAY-DELTA  
PROGRAM**

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**Memorandum**

Date: August 25, 1997

To: BDAC Members

From: Lester A. Snow *snaron boss for*  
Executive Director

Subject: Update on Distinguishing Characteristics to be Used in Detailed Evaluation

**Summary**

A package of sixteen characteristics of the alternatives that could be used in detailed evaluation of Program alternatives was discussed at the July 22, 1997 BDAC meeting. Based on comments received during that meeting and input from the agency Program Coordination Team (PCT) and the CALFED Policy Group, eighteen "distinguishing characteristics" have been approved by the Policy Group.

CALFED staff will review the revised list of distinguishing characteristics at the September 4th meeting, focusing on the characteristics that were added or changed since the last BDAC meeting. The new characteristics are highlighted below:

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. In-Delta water quality         | 10. Risk to export water supplies        |
| 2. Export water quality           | 11. Total cost                           |
| 3. Diversion effects on fisheries | 12. Assurances difficulty                |
| 4. Delta flow circulation         | 13. Habitat impacts                      |
| 5. Storage and release of water   | 14. Land use changes                     |
| 6. Water supply opportunities     | 15. Socio-economic impacts               |
| 7. Water transfer opportunities   | 16. Consistency with solution principles |
| 8. Operational flexibility        | 17. <b>Ability to phase facilities</b>   |
| 9. South Delta access to water    | 18. <b>Brackish water habitat</b>        |

These eighteen characteristics will be utilized to begin comparison of the alternatives. Should other factors become evident or necessary during the comparisons, they will be brought to BDAC, the PCT and the Policy Group.

**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  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Department of Commerce  
National Marine Fisheries Service

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During detailed evaluation, supporting information will be developed for each of the distinguishing characteristics. CALFED staff will present a draft framework for the characteristics and an example on how the supporting information could be displayed for use in comparing alternatives. Staff will also lead a discussion of the "tradeoffs" between the alternatives used in the example at the September meeting. Full comparison of the alternatives will be available at the following meeting.

#### **Action -- Information Items**

The review of the eighteen distinguishing characteristics and the presentation of the example display of four characteristics are informational items for BDAC. They are meant to promote a fuller understanding of the process which will be used to compare the distinguishing characteristics of the alternatives. These examples are also meant to promote an understanding of the "tradeoffs" which must be evaluated in comparing the alternatives. We look forward to your comments on these items.

#### **Detailed Discussion**

The attached paper discusses the status of the eighteen distinguishing characteristics and presents a framework and example for supporting information.

Attachment