

## PREPARATION FOR PHASE II OF THE CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is developing a long-term solution to problems in the Bay-Delta system related to ecosystem quality, water quality, water supply and vulnerability of system functions. The intent is to develop and implement, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and the California Environmental Quality Act, a comprehensive and balanced plan which addresses all of the resource problems. The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is being carried out in a three-phase process:

- **Phase I.** This Phase is currently underway and consists of clearly defining the problems to be addressed and the appropriate range of solutions. A description of the Phase I effort is contained in the "Draft Plan of Action - Phase I" dated June 22, 1995.
- **Phase II.** Phase II is the subject of a Plan of Action (POA) currently under development which will result in the completion of a Tier 1 (programmatic) environmental document; and
- **Phase III.** Phase III will include, as appropriate, the preparation of project specific or Tier 2 environmental documents for individual actions identified during Phase II.

Initial plans for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program indicated that the Tier I EIS/EIR would be undertaken during Phase II. As the program has developed, it has become apparent that elements of the Tier 1 EIS/EIR must begin during Phase I. One of these elements includes "Scoping" efforts to help define significant issues and alternatives to be addressed in the Tier 1 EIS/EIR. Scoping includes:

- describing the Tier 1 EIS/EIR Purpose and Need statement;
- publication of the Notice of Intent and Notice of Publication to prepare the Tier 1 EIS/EIR;
- conducting scoping workshops; and
- refining the planning alternatives based on input received during the scoping workshops.

Simultaneously, other elements necessary to prepare the Tier 1 draft EIS/EIR will be initiated in Phase I. These include:

- describing the appropriate level of analysis for the Tier 1 EIS/EIR;
- identifying the analytical tools for Tier 1 EIS/EIR impact evaluation;
- identifying the related environmental requirements;
- describing the Tier 1 EIS/EIR No Action alternative; and

- describing the actions that will be part of the cumulative impact assessment.

The Phase I efforts will be completed by June of 1996. Phase II is scheduled to begin at that time and end in June 1998. Additional Tier 1 draft EIS/EIR elements to be completed during Phase II include:

- describing the environment of the area to be affected by the project alternatives;
- developing assumptions for implementing the many projects, regulatory requirements and policies that comprise the alternatives including the no action alternative;
- analyzing the impacts of the alternatives; and
- preparing a draft Tier 1 EIS/EIR.

Rounding out the Phase II efforts will be the completion of the following:

- a final Tier 1 EIS/EIR;
- a Record of Decision/Findings and a Notice of Determination; and
- an Environmental Commitment Plan/Mitigation Monitoring Program.

The schedule for tasks needed to complete the Tier 1 EIS/EIR is summarized in Figure 1.

**Figure 1. Summary Schedule for Tasks Needed to Complete the Tier 1 EIS/EIR.**

PHASE	TASKS	1995	1996	1997	1998
Phase I	Scoping	10/95--	----4/96		
	Tier 1 draft EIS/EIR	10/95--	-----6/96		
Phase II	Tier 1 draft EIS/EIR		6/96-----	-----6/97	
	Tier 1 final EIS/EIR			6/97----	--1/98
	Record of Decision/ Findings				2/98--6/98