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# Issues of Concern for Phase II Analyses

## INTRODUCTION

More detailed analyses of the Delta conveyances, potential water storage, and the four common programs will be conducted in Phase II of the Program. These will provide more definition on how these components can best work together in each alternative. While there are many issues of concern that various stakeholders feel must be addressed in Phase II, a few key issues were identified during Workshop 7 on June 25, 1996:

1. **Assurances and institutional guarantees must be included in each alternative.** The alternatives are normally described by their physical improvements to the Bay-Delta system including the intended operation. While these will be refined during Phase II analyses, a package of assurances and institutional guarantees are needed to assure that each alternative can successfully operate as intended in the future. Each alternative will have a number of issues that require policy level assurances and guarantees for both the ecosystem and for the other beneficial water users. A BDAC Assurances Work Group has been established to identify these policy level responses. CALFED will consider the suggestions from the BDAC work group and will develop a package of Assurances/Institutional Guarantees to address these issues.
2. **Area of Origin issues must be addressed in each alternative.** The area of origin issues will be addressed with the Assurances/Institutional Guarantees (see above).
3. **Watershed management must be included in the water quality program for each alternative.** The water quality program will include incentives for local and regional agencies to implement watershed management. The incentives will encourage watershed management that promotes water quality in the tributaries to the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and/or promotes additional water supply. The watershed management techniques must be consistent with the ecosystem restoration program and principles of ecosystem health.
4. **Fish screening criteria and detail must be developed for each alternative.** The agency ecosystem review team will develop fish screening criteria considering existing criteria of California Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries Service and others. This criteria will include physical parameters (velocity, bypass requirements, etc.) for the screens and a priority ranking of existing diversions and new diversions included as elements of alternatives

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indicating those most important for screening. The criteria and priority for screening will be included in the common Ecosystem Restoration Program in each alternative.

5. **More detailed phasing concepts must be developed for each alternative.** As the details of the alternatives are refined in the Phase II analyses, more detailed phasing concepts will be developed. Phasing offers the opportunity to make the alternatives more affordable by financing costs over a period of time extending 20 to 40 years or more. Future revisions to these plans will acknowledge opportunities for adaptive management. They will also account for the longer planning, permitting, and construction lead times typical for some portions of the alternatives.
6. **Adaptive management must be an important tool with each alternative.** Given the uncertainty in how the ecosystem will respond to efforts to improve its overall health, adaptive management will allow for fine-tuning the overall Program solution in the future as more information becomes available. More detailed strategies for adaptive management will be developed by the Program team during Phase II. The BDAC work groups will identify policy issues related to adaptive management. CALFED Program Team will consider the suggestions from the BDAC work groups and will include adaptive management in the package of Assurances/Institutional Guarantees for the Phase II Alternatives.
7. **System improvements can create new water supply opportunities for all beneficial uses including ecosystem needs and consumptive uses.** Water supply opportunities will be evaluated for each alternative. Improvements to Delta conveyance can improve system operational flexibility by allowing diversion timing changes for the benefit of all beneficial uses. The flexibility added by opportunities to shift timing can be used to increase environmental flows at specific times. The improved conveyance flexibility can also increase supply opportunities, transfers, and wet year diversions. New storage can bank water during periods which have the lowest priority for ecosystem health for a wide range of environmental, agricultural, and urban beneficial uses. Water stored in these periods can be released during periods of high priority for ecosystem health to improve instream flows and Delta outflows and can be used to create opportunities for consumptive use. The combination of improved Delta conveyance and new storage further improves operational flexibility and creates new water supply opportunities for all uses.