

**Issue Paper
Durability**

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- Memorandum -

Date: October 10, 1996
To: BDAC Members
From: Lester A. Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
Subject: Durability Solution Principle

Issue Summary

The Program has developed six solution principles (see attached) to guide development and evaluation of alternatives. BDAC members have raised the question of the definition of the durability principle in light of statewide water demand forecasts (see Alex Hildebrand white paper in comment section).

The approach the Program is taking to durability is not just to create a snapshot of what needs to be done, but to make the management of Delta resources into an "ongoing concern." The responsibility for meeting objectives and protecting the Bay-Delta resources involves an ongoing effort which is intended to adapt to future circumstances. It does not end with the institution of a package of initial plans and programs, but continues indefinitely into the future. Durability does *not* imply that a specific list of actions will be decided upon at the outset from which no variance will be allowed in the future.

The Program has selected 2020 as the minimum time horizon for purposes of impact analysis, however, this analysis date does not limit the "shelf life" of the long-term solution.

BDAC Considerations

1. The Program is focusing on the issues in the Bay-Delta system, not the water supply and demand situation for the entire state. **Is this a reasonable approach? Can a solution be "durable" within this approach?**
2. For purposes of the EIR/EIS analysis, the minimum time horizon which will be used is 2020, although for purposes of the Durability Solution Principle no ending date is specified. **Should the concept of durability include an expiration date, or should it continue indefinitely?**

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

Background

Water Demand

One aspect of the state's future that is widely discussed as providing a challenge to the durability of the solution is the prospect for population growth and increased demand for water.

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program does not intend to solve the problems presented by the state's long-term increase in water demand due to population growth or other causes. Rather, the Program's focus is on developing a durable solution to the resource issues of the Bay-Delta system.

However, it is recognized that should a significant increase in water demand occur in future years due to increased population or other causes, there is a potential for pressure to obtain more water from the Delta which could endanger a balanced and long-term solution developed by the Program.

While there have been requests for exact estimates of future demand and how they would be dealt with by the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, the exact forecast is not the critical issue. Nearly any reasonable range of forecasts would reveal that the possibility of growth can stress a balanced resource plan.

In light of this possibility, the approach of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program is to develop a solution that will continue to appropriately use and protect the resources of the Bay-Delta regardless of the extent of future population growth and water demand. That is, the long-term solution must be able to withstand the future pressures which might occur from population growth or increased water demand without abandoning the goals of the Program. This will require careful consideration of appropriate assurance mechanisms.

The Program is taking a similar approach with respect to other durability issues. The focus is on creating a coherent program and process that can address the Program's objectives based on current conditions and expectations as well as provide for the ability to adapt to future needs while continuing to protect and manage the resources of the Bay-Delta.

Time Horizon

For purposes of conducting environmental impact analysis as part of the EIR/EIS process, it is necessary to designate a planning horizon. The Program has selected 2020 as the minimum time horizon for planning purposes, in part because that is the date for which

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uniform estimates are available from the California Department of Finance (state law require usage of these estimated by all state agencies).

In terms of complying with the Program's Durability Solution Principle, the approach is different. Durability has no expiration date or time horizon. The concept of durability as defined in the Solution Principle, involves creating an ongoing structure which is capable of administering and protecting the Bay-Delta resources.

Attachment