



**CALFED  
BAY-DELTA  
PROGRAM**

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Date: October 10, 1996

To: BDAC Members

From: Lester A. Snow, Executive Director  
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Subject: Development of Assessment Process for Use in CALFED's Programmatic EIR/EIS

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program (CALFED) is developing an assessment process for analysis of the three CALFED alternatives in the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS). The assessment process will be used to measure and discuss changes in resource categories, such as air quality, recreation, and cultural resources, and distinguish relative detrimental and beneficial impacts between alternatives. Major goals in developing the assessment process are:

- The assessment process and assessment methods should be able to distinguish between the alternatives at the programmatic level.
- The assessment process and methods should provide a fair and defensible analysis of the alternatives with broad acceptance by both agencies and stakeholders.
- The assessment process and methods should be applicable within the existing CALFED time line.

CALFED has met with agency and stakeholder representatives to share information and receive suggestions on the assessment process. The attached Resource Category and Assessment Variable Table reflects the comments and suggestions of many groups and individuals. This table provides a general summary of the important changes which are intended to be evaluated in impact analysis for the Programmatic EIR/EIS. In some cases the change to be evaluated is complex or difficult to measure directly, so impacts are analyzed indirectly by measuring and evaluating related information. The attached table also identifies any related information which will be used to assist in impact analysis.

As a concurrent process, CALFED program managers are developing ways to assess the effectiveness or success of the various common programs. These efforts are related and may have some similarities to the assessment process for impact analysis, but are primarily

**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

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focused on evaluating the success of the Program relative to the CALFED solution principles and objectives, rather than distinguishing the differences between the alternatives.

The Resource Category and Assessment Variable Table is a living document. As information becomes available, work groups complete their efforts, and the components and alternatives for the CALFED Program are refined, this Table is amended and updated. We would appreciate your comments on this document. Comments should be submitted to Wendy Halverson Martin at the CALFED office, by November 1, 1996. If you have any questions please give Wendy a call at (916) 657-2666.

Attachments