PHASE II
TECHNICAL EVALUATIONS

IMPACT ANALYSES

The primary technical evaluations during Phase II of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program will be the **impact analyses** for the programmatic EIR/EIS. The impact analyses will examine the differences between the alternatives (including the existing condition and the no-action alternative) at the program level of detail and present the information for decisions on a broad range of alternatives. The impact analyses will provide understanding on how the storage and conveyance component interacts with the other components that make up the alternatives, including ecosystem restoration, water quality, levee system integrity, and water use efficiency.

The main purpose of the impact analyses is to compare and contrast the alternatives rather than to optimize sizes, select specific configurations, or select specific sites for any actions within the alternatives. In many cases, the impact analysis will simply provide descriptions of how conditions would be different between the existing condition, the no-action, and the programmatic alternatives. The impact analyses are scheduled for completion by fall 1997.

PREFEASIBILITY STUDIES

The Program will also conduct **prefeasibility studies** for the storage and conveyance, water quality, and ecosystem restoration components; studies for storage and conveyance are underway. These studies will provide more detailed information than that obtained from the impact analyses for the programmatic EIR/EIS. The Program has chosen to conduct impact analyses and prefeasibility studies at the same time rather than conducting them sequentially. However, the prefeasibility studies will continue after the impact analyses are completed. The following paragraphs show some advantages of proceeding now with prefeasibility studies:

> **Provide Support for Impact Analyses** - The prefeasibility studies provide the foundation for the programmatic impact analysis by developing specific information on costs, water supply, flows, water quality, site impacts, and other factors for representative combinations of components. For example, the feasibility of implementing offstream storage to enhance water supply opportunities depends on the specific locations available for development such as topography, geology, environmental concern, proximity to a water supply source, and existing conveyance facilities. By exploring some representative combinations of facilities in terms of specific costs, benefits, and impacts, the prefeasibility evaluations will provide a solid foundation for the programmatic evaluations. These studies help determine the ranges for impact analyses.

Refine Layouts, Sizes, and Other Details - While the impact analyses will evaluate a broad range of facility sizes, the prefeasibility studies provide information for additional sizes within that range. For example, if the range of north of Delta storage is 200 thousand acre-feet to 1 million acre-feet for an alternative, then the impact analysis will examine benefits and adverse impacts for the low and high end of the range, and perhaps an additional analysis at the mid-range. The prefeasibility analyses will provide additional detail that may lead to narrowing the range of sizes for the preferred alternative (for example, down to the 500 to 600 thousand acre-feet range).

When alternatives are weighed against program goals and objectives as well as solution principles in selection of a preferred alternative, this higher level of information on all the components, but especially the storage and conveyance components, can assist the stakeholders and decision makers. This additional level of decision support information is the focus of the prefeasibility analysis.

Provide Detailed Costs Not Required for the EIR/EIS - The programmatic EIR/EIS will primarily display benefits and adverse impacts of the alternatives and will include only program level costs for the ends of the range being studied. The prefeasibility studies will provide more detailed cost information to assist the stakeholders and decision makers in their deliberations on the "preferred alternative".

Shorten Time to Implementation - The prefeasibility studies provide early direction for the process of planning, site specific environmental documentation, design, and construction required for project implementation in Phase III. While the studies will not progress so far, before the selection of the preferred alternative, so as to produce unnecessary analysis, starting the prefeasibility studies before completion of the EIR/EIS will allow the Program to move more efficiently into project implementation.