

**Distinguishing
Characteristics**

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Memorandum

Date: October 23, 1997

To: BDAC Members

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



Subject: Update on Decision Process and Distinguishing Characteristics

Summary

Example use of the eighteen "distinguishing characteristics" of the alternatives was discussed at the September 4, 1997 BDAC meeting. Since that time, we have continued the evaluation of the twelve alternatives for each of the distinguishing characteristics:

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|--|---|
| 1. In-Delta water quality | 10. Risk to export water supplies |
| 2. Export water quality | 11. Total cost |
| 3. Diversification effects on fisheries | 12. Assurances difficulty |
| 4. Delta flow circulation | 13. Habitat impacts |
| 5. Storage and release of water | 14. Land use changes |
| 6. Water supply opportunities | 15. Socio-economic impacts |
| 7. Water transfer opportunities | 16. Consistency with solution principles |
| 8. Operational flexibility | 17. Ability to phase facilities |
| 9. South Delta access to water | 18. Brackish water habitat |

Staff will present an update on the status of the distinguishing characteristics and the in-progress documentation of supporting information at the November 4-5, 1997 meeting. Evaluations to date indicate the characteristics shown above in **bold** to display the most significant differences between the alternatives.

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
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

Action -- Information Items

The attached *Review of the Decision Process* and the *Draft Evaluation Using Distinguishing Characteristics* are informational items. The "Process" document provides a brief review of our two step decision process and a reminder of the role of the distinguishing characteristics in the second step. It also provides a review of the role of the Interagency Development Team in the detailed evaluations leading to selection of a draft preferred alternative.

The three page chart summarizes the comparison of the alternatives against the distinguishing characteristics. The "Distinguishing Characteristics" document provides additional detail and an in-progress review of how the alternatives compare against one another. The document includes draft decision matrices and supporting information of the preliminary evaluations. We look forward to your comments on these items.

Detailed Discussion

See the attached three documents for the detailed discussion:

Review of the Decision Process
Draft Development of CALFED Preferred Alternative
Draft Evaluation Using Distinguishing Characteristics