

**DRAFT PREFERRED
ALTERNATIVE
FRAMEWORK**

Memorandum

Date: August 26, 1998
To: BDAC Members
From: Lester A. Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
Subject: Draft Framework for a Draft Preferred Alternative



Enclosed with this memo are two documents which have been released by the CALFED agencies and will serve as a basis for BDAC discussion on September 10, 1998. The first is titled "Draft Preferred Program Alternative - 30-Year Policy Framework." The agencies believe that the eight points of the Policy Framework lay the foundation to proceed with the Draft Preferred Program Alternative. The eight points summarize the major issues which need to be addressed for selection of the preferred alternative.

The issues are further discussed and expanded upon in the second enclosure titled "Draft - Developing a Draft Preferred Program Alternative." The July 8 version of this document, which BDAC reviewed at the July meeting in Oakland, has undergone substantial revision. Section 1 describes the framework for staged implementation and decision-making, Section 2 provides an outline of expected actions to be completed at the time of the Record of Decision and Certification of the Programmatic EIS/EIR, and Section 3 provides a list of proposed Stage 1 actions. Oral comments from BDAC and written comments from individual BDAC members (see BDAC letters and responses section of this packet), other stakeholders and the CALFED agencies were all considered during revision of the document. CALFED staff will review the changes to the document since the July 16 and 17 BDAC meeting.

Members of the CALFED Policy Group, the CALFED agency decision-makers, will be in attendance to participate in the BDAC discussion of this document. During the course of the discussion we will ask you to focus your comments on the contingency strategy and on the conditions and linkages required for the Program to move forward. If time permits, we would also like BDAC and the Policy Group to discuss together the central question of who--or what entity or decision-making process--should be assessing the success of the Program at agreed-upon decision points.

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