

Financing
1999 Work plan Summary
February 4, 1999

Critical Issues/Tasks

1. Refine Cost Estimates.

- The highest priority action for 1999 is to develop better cost estimates for Stage 1 actions. These cost estimates will need to reflect a realistic view of what can be accomplished and spent in Stage 1. The quality of these cost estimates will be dependent upon the level of detail available regarding Stage 1 actions.

2. Identify existing funding sources.

- The objective of this task is to identify funding sources, including state, federal, or private/nonprofit programs, that can be used or counted towards CALFED Stage 1 actions. Successful completion of this task would also assure programs are not conflicting with each other, or re-creating work. Once information regarding funding for these programs is obtained, the objective is to streamline the budget to better coordinate with all of these various related programs.

3. Complete a new financing plan.

- Once cost estimates for the program elements have been refined, and existing funding sources have been identified, CALFED staff will develop a financing plan. The financing plan will include a definition of funding sources and a budget that will be coordinated with other programs that can be counted towards CALFED Stage 1 efforts.

4. Issues to be resolved.

- The success of these actions necessitates high-level support and cooperation from the CALFED agencies. In order to develop a coordinated budget that accounts for existing funding, CALFED will need information from various other programs and projects.
- Many of the financial principles remain unresolved. Decisions will need to be made regarding the level and method of public and user funding, ability to pay, and a crediting policy.

Process for Stakeholder and Agency Involvement

The process for stakeholder and agency involvement will be different in 1999 than it was last year. The BDAC Finance Work Group will be replaced by a small group of policy level agency staff and stakeholders. The objective of the group will be to advise CALFED on some of the more controversial issues, such as financial principles. The frequency of meetings will be on an

"as needed" basis. Proposals will be provided for review and comment before bringing the information to Small Group and Policy Group. Broader public involvement will include BDAC and possibly focused public workshops on financing coinciding with selected BDAC meetings.

Time frame

- A draft financing plan will be completed in May 1999, concurrent with the draft EIS/R. This draft will contain a first-cut at new program cost estimates, defined funding sources, and financial principles.
- Other actions will need to be completed prior to the R.O.D., such as cost sharing agreements and a crediting policy.