

# CALFED DRINKING WATER QUALITY PROGRAM FY 2000 IMPLEMENTATION

## I. Program Background

CALFED's drinking water quality goal is to continuously improve source water quality that allows for municipal water suppliers to deliver safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water that meets, and where feasible, is better than the applicable drinking water standards. Through extensive stakeholder input during Phase I and II, CALFED identified concerns that result from using Delta waters as a source of drinking water supply and identified near term actions that could be taken to improve source water quality. Bromide, organic carbon, pathogens, salts, nutrients and turbidity are constituents of major concern for drinking water. The concentrations and loadings of these constituents will be affected by actions from the Drinking Water Quality Program and also from the choice of storage and conveyance and water management options.

## II. FY 2000 Funding Priorities

Staff recommendation is to allocate \$2.0 million among four drinking water quality actions:

1. Assessment of Sources and Magnitudes of Loads of Drinking Water Constituents of Concern
2. Veale/Byron Tract Drainage Discharge Management
3. Bay Area Regional Blending Assessment
4. Salt Removal System - Pilot Project

This allocation is consistent with the CALFED FY 2000 Preliminary Federal Funding Allocation priorities for non-ecosystem actions and consistent with the Stage 1A and Stage 1 priorities as described in the June 1999 revised Programmatic EIR/S.

## III. Stakeholder and Public Input

The Delta Drinking Water Council was formed to advise BDAC on actions necessary to assure the continuous improvement of drinking water quality through CALFED. In addition, three agency/stakeholder groups are providing technical input for the CALFED Drinking Water Quality Program early implementation actions and the CALFED Integrated Storage Investigation:

1. Drinking Water Constituents Work Group
2. Veale/Byron Tract Work Group
3. Drinking Water Quality Operations Work Group

Selection criteria for projects were developed by the Water Quality Technical Group during Phase II and later refined by several Work Groups. These selection criteria were used by the CALFED staff to select early implementation actions for funding in FY2000:

- Seriousness of the health risk and other problems to be addressed by the proposed action
- Degree to which the problem and solutions are understood. This recognizes that studies may be needed to investigate and identify problems and solutions.
- Likelihood of the proposed solution reducing impairment of beneficial uses
- Availability of a willing and competent lead implementing entity
- Timeframe in which the benefits of the action can be realized and measured
- Benefits and costs of the action in relation to other proposed actions
- Funds and ability to leverage CALFED funds by partnerships with other entities and funding sources, including existing sources of CALFED agency funds
- Level of environmental documentation and permits required
- Compliance with CALFED solution principles
- Compliance with Delta Protection Act, CVPIA and other laws and statutes governing water quality and supply in the Delta
- Amount of local involvement
- Compatibility with other CALFED Program elements

#### IV. Proposed Method for Distributing Funding

Proposed methods for distribution of funding are described for each of the four drinking water quality actions:

1. **Assessment of Sources and Magnitudes of Loads of Drinking Water Constituents of Concern** - Two proposals are being developed for funding. Project proposals are being prepared with input from the Constituents Work Group. The first proposal, which would be a **directed action**, is to evaluate existing data to determine baseline conditions under various hydrologic conditions and operational scenario. The information from this action will be used to determine the adequacy of current information and to identify monitoring and research gaps. **Project management would occur within the CALFED Drinking Water Quality Program** through a USBR consultant. Key agency support would be through the U.S. Geological Survey and the California Department of Water Resources. This would be a one-year project and would be funded at approximately **\$150,000**.

The second proposal in this category is for implementation of a monitoring and research program so that changes in Delta water quality resulting from CALFED actions and the effectiveness of water quality actions can be evaluated. **This project would be managed by the U. S. Geological Survey**, with key agency support provided by the California Department of Water Resources and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. The proposed method for distribution of funds would be through a combination of **directed action and open solicitation (RFP)**. This would be a multi-year project and would be funded at approximately **\$550,000** the first year.

2. **Veale/Byron Tract Drainage Discharge Management** - This action focuses on a group of measures designed to improve both the quantity and quality of drainage discharges from Veale and Byron Tracts and to improve the drinking water sources at south Delta drinking water intakes. The measures may include: drain relocations, outfall

improvements, discharge timing management, drainage treatment and storm flow management. Several solution approaches are emerging from Work Group meetings. Modifying the existing Byron Tract outfall could be a cost-effective measure to reduce adverse impacts on water quality at CCWD's Los Vaqueros intake. A comprehensive investigation of drainage sources influencing CCWD's Rock Slough intake has been recommended, as no single action has emerged as clearly superior for Veale Tract. Use of wetlands for treating drainage from Veale and Byron Tracts has also been recommended.

A project proposal is being prepared with technical input from CALFED's Veale/Byron Tract Work Group. **Project management responsibility has not been determined.** The proposed method for distribution of funds would be through a combination of **directed action and open solicitation (RFP)**. This would be a multi-year project and would be funded at approximately **\$500,000** the first year.

3. **Bay Area Regional Blending Assessment** - As part of its Drinking Water Quality Improvement Strategy, CALFED will consider opportunities to engage in water exchanges to meet drinking water quality needs. On November 16, staff met with representatives from Bay Area urban water suppliers to develop a proposal for investigating the potential for regional water exchanges to improve source water quality. The initial phase of work would focus on two technical tasks: (1) quantitatively assess individual agency needs for higher quality source water; and (2) assess the ability of existing facilities to convey the needed quantities assuming the water is available. An additional phase identifying specific sources of higher quality supply would be undertaken if warranted by the results of the initial phase.

**Project management would occur within the CALFED Drinking Water Quality Program** through a USBR consultant with policy and technical input provided through stakeholder committees. A project proposal is being prepared. The proposed method for distributing funding is by **directed action**. This would be a single-year project and would be funded at approximately **\$100,000**. In-kind services would be provided by the following Bay Area urban water suppliers: Alameda County Water District; Contra Costa Water District; East Bay Municipal Utility District; Santa Clara Valley Water District; San Francisco Public Utilities Commission; Bay Areas Water Users Association.

4. **Salt Removal System-Pilot Project** -Salt removal of irrigation runoff in the San Joaquin Valley would reduce salt discharges to the San Joaquin River and would prevent salt buildup on agricultural land. This type of action would protect aquatic resources and maintain valuable agricultural resources. Pilot projects are being sought that remove salt and propose a disposal or reuse system. The proposed method for funding this type of project would be developed in coordination with the Salinity/Selenium Work Group, and could result in either a directed action or open solicitation. This would be a multi year project that would be funded at approximately **\$700,000** the first year.

**V. Time Line**

Draft proposals are expected to be reviewed by the Work Groups in time for the next Delta Drinking Water Council meeting on December 16, 1999. After the DDWC reviews and makes recommendations on the proposals, the proposals will be sent through BDAC to the Policy Group for approval for funding. The request for approval for funding by the Policy Group will occur at the January 2000 meeting.