

List of Solution Options
for Third Party and Groundwater Protection Issues
(as offered at the BDAC Water Transfer Work Group meeting on Nov. 21, 1997)

- schedule substitution pumping when other groundwater users are not pumping
- do extensive groundwater monitoring before, during and after program operates
- establish agreed upon baseline information
- publicly disclose the plans, explain anticipated impacts and mitigation strategies
- define what impacts can be claimed and procedures to submit/process claim
- programmatic EIR's cannot be used for groundwater substitution programs
- need to evaluate the growth inducement in the buying region from a transfer
- need to enforce buying areas to be efficient prior to approving transfers
- need to evaluate the trade-offs of doing more conservation instead of transfers
- have better public notice of specific transfers, possibly using existing County and/or City processes (transfer proponents would provide information to the County or City for their further disclosure)
- establish local monitoring and provide financial support for independent monitoring of groundwater levels
- need public accountability of decision makers
- have decisions made with all stakeholders present, not in isolated (independent) forum (i.e., do not let a water district or other single entity decide on issues that affect a broader geographic range of interests)
- separate the functions of the State Water Project from the Department of Water Resources
- do not allow the Department of Water Resources to function as a water transfer broker
- have transfer proponents pay for and implement public disclosure for specific transfers
- establish accountability/tracking of funds received by sellers to ensure local expenditure within the source area economy
- establish a technical advisory committee to review and disclose data collected by others
- broaden conflict of interest laws to include local entities, such as districts, so they cannot have sole approval if they could gain from transfers
- establish a transfer tax that sets aside a specific dollar amount into a mitigation fund upon each transfer
- develop a set of priorities or guidelines on transfers which could be used by decision makers (i.e., priority may be 1) intra-district, 2) intra-basin, 3) instream, 4) out-of-basin)
- use CVPIA transfer rules
- establish a limit on the quantity of water transferred from any one region or political entity (district)
- establish limits on the quantity for each specific transfer proposal
- have CALFED develop baseline research, especially with regard to groundwater and groundwater/surface water interaction
- establish basin-wide planning goals
- define how a market is accessed, the criteria for selling, and the range of transfers needed for a CALFED solution