

PHASE I PROGRESS REPORT



CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is a joint effort among state and federal agencies with management and regulatory responsibilities in the Bay-Delta, and involves significant public and "stakeholder" involvement. The Program seeks resolution of Bay-Delta problems by building consensus rather than fostering conflict.

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PERSPECTIVE

This report summarizes Phase I of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, a three-phase effort to develop a long-term solution to problems affecting the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta estuary (the Bay-Delta) in Northern California.

Four general categories of critical problems facing the Bay-Delta are defined — ecosystem quality, water quality, water supply reliability, and system vulnerability—along with 10 draft alternative solutions to these problems.

These draft alternatives represent combinations of actions that to varying degrees address each of the problems in the Bay-Delta's four critical areas. None are final products; all are subject to significant change based on further public input and technical analysis.

Moreover, these alternatives represent concepts, not project-level proposals. They focus on identifying a range of balanced actions that might be undertaken to address Bay-Delta problems—actions that are technically realistic and have broad public support—not when, where, and how specific actions should be taken to address these problems.

Both the problems and draft solutions have been identified in the Program's first phase, to be completed in late spring or summer of 1996. By the end of Phase I the 10 alternatives discussed here will have been refined to three to five. Phase II investigations will lead to identification of

one preferred alternative. In Phase III, project-level environmental documents will be prepared. Phase III will begin in mid-1998 and continue in a staged fashion over several years.

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The 10 alternatives described in this document continue to change and evolve on almost a daily basis in response to input from the Bay Delta Advisory Committee (BDAC) and CALFED agencies. As a result, the alternatives in this document differ somewhat from those to be presented at workshop 6 and Program scoping meetings in mid-April of this year.

The basic structure and components of the alternatives will remain the same, however, and any differences will be thoroughly explained and discussed at CALFED public events in April and beyond. Notably, the Program will not begin refining these 10 alternatives to reach the "short list" of three to five until after receiving full public input. The Program welcomes questions regarding this refinement process. Program staff may be reached by telephone at 916/657-2666.

