

**DRAFT****CALFED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT POLICY**

January 31, 1997

The mission of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program is to develop and implement a long-term comprehensive plan to restore ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta System. The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is developing and implementing a comprehensive plan to address a declining ecosystem, uncertain water supplies, and imperiled water quality. This plan will include an integrated approach to solving these problems and watershed management is one of the components of that approach. Watershed management will be included in each of the three alternative Bay-Delta solutions as a means of improving water quality, including enhancing sources of drinking water, overall ecosystem health and increased water yield.

As defined in this policy, watershed management is a comprehensive, integrated, basin-wide approach that may address many of the existing water quality problems including but not limited to point and non-point, pollution sources, habitat loss, and surface water quality degradation. A watershed-wide focus will help to better integrate and coordinate State/Federal resource management programs with local watershed activities, while ensuring long-term benefits for the Bay-Delta system.

A primary role of CALFED is to coordinate the solution of Bay-Delta system problems on a large scale. CALFED watershed management will be an outgrowth of this role, emphasizing the efforts of diverse interests - environmental, agricultural, industrial, municipal and other local, State and Federal agencies - working together to achieve long term solutions to the problems of the Bay-Delta system.

CALFED fosters local stewardship and supports community based watershed interests. CALFED might, for example, work with local agencies to assist in the formation of alliances and cooperative projects to improve water quality for beneficial uses on a larger scale that might be possible with local agencies working alone or in more narrowly scoped programs.

CALFED supports sound scientific investigations and pilot programs to develop and demonstrate methods for protecting and enhancing beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta System. An important component of CALFED support for programs is to assure development of adequate technical documentation to support decision-making in a long-term adaptive management process. For example, CALFED might assume a leadership role in coordinating assessment activities throughout the watersheds tributary to the Bay-Delta to assure uniform data collection protocols, uniform application of quality control, standardized analyses, and compatible database structures.

Emphasis for CALFED involvement in watershed management activities will be placed on activities that are consistent with its solution principles to reduce conflict, and to be equitable,