

Designated Action

DRAFT

Subject: Water Quality Criteria for Chlorpyrifos and Diazinon

Background: CALFED's Water Quality Program Plan has identified chlorpyrifos and diazinon as pesticides that pose a threat to the Delta, and CALFED is supporting studies to both determine the impacts of pesticides on the Delta ecosystem and develop management practices to reduce the levels of these pesticides within the system.

The general actions that are required to resolve water quality problems associated with these two pesticides include (1) establishment of water quality objectives, (2) development of management practices that can be implemented to meet the targets, (3) completion of studies to determine potential ecological impacts, (4) establishment of mechanisms for assuring implementation of practices that reduce pesticide levels entering surface waters, and (5) implementation of a monitoring program to document the progress of reduction programs.

The proposed project is to complete the first general action required to resolve water quality problems associated with diazinon and chlorpyrifos, namely the development of final water quality criteria. Once these are established, management practice development and implementation will be greatly enhanced because the pesticide users will know exactly how much concentrations must be reduced in receiving waters.

The Department of Fish and Game has developed draft criteria documents for the pesticides chlorpyrifos and diazinon. The draft criteria are based on available data, and because there is a lack of data in some areas, the draft criteria include large safety factors. The Department has identified four studies that are necessary to fill the data gaps.

Proposed Action: Direct funding to the Department of Fish and Game for (a) completion of the four identified studies necessary to fill the data gaps and (b) completion of final criteria documents for diazinon and chlorpyrifos.

Geographic Area: Throughout the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta system.

Recommended Funding: \$100,000

Coordination: The Department will need to review any toxicity information for these two chemicals which has been developed since the publication of the draft criteria document.

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