

*EIS/EIR: Ecosystem and Flood Plain Restoration Associated with the South Delta
Improvements Program
EIS/EIR Project Management*

Decisions Needed

Several key policy and management decisions are needed by CALFED agencies to ensure the timely completion of the EIS/EIR for the Ecosystem and Flood Plain Restoration Associated with the South Delta Improvements Program. Those decisions are:

<u>Decision</u>	<u>by</u>
CEQA and NEPA lead agencies	August 3, 1999 (later confirmed in writing)
Dedication of Staff	August 3, 1999 (later confirmed in writing)
Provide funding:	
Step 1 -\$80,000	August 3, 1999
Step 2 -\$152,000	September 1, 1999
Step 3 -\$438,000	December 1, 1999
Step 4 -\$2,887,500	January 1, 2000
Step 5 -\$3,267,500	October 1, 2000
Step 6 -\$1,175,000	April 1, 2001
Approve NOI and NOP	October 1, 1999

Implementing Agencies

The CDFG will be the state CEQA lead agency and will be the project manager and project lead for completing the EIS/EIR, ensuring that a project is developed and permitted. The USFWS and NMFS would be the federal NEPA leads. The CDFG may also implement specific elements of the project. Some project elements may be implemented by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) as well as by private landowners, reclamation districts, stakeholders, or non-profit organizations.

Participating Staff

The following agencies would dedicate staff to work on EIS/EIR preparation: CDFG, USFWS, and NMFS. Primary staff support would be provided by the CDFG with consultant assistance. The following agencies would dedicate staff to assist in EIS/EIR preparation, project formulation and planning, and stakeholder outreach: DWR and COE.

Project Implementation

Project time lines, activities, milestones, personnel, funding, and identified assumptions are described in the EIS/EIR Implementation Plan (attachment). This effort is estimated to require a minimum of three years before the final EIS/EIR is certified and selected projects are permitted for implementation. Identified milestones are either significant action events or due date of deliverables. Staff and funding needs are staged to fulfill corresponding tasks at key milestones. Cost estimates for this effort are estimated at \$3 million per year for the first two years, with final year costs approaching \$2 million. Total costs would, therefore, be approximately \$8 million for a three-year effort which results in certified environmental documentation and permits for implementation.