



Memorandum

Date: March 21, 2000

To: CALFED Management Group

From: Rick Soehren *RS*
South Delta ERP Coordinator

Subject: Concurrence with Programmatic Approach to Habitat Restoration in the South Delta

Background: At the Management Group meeting on March 14, 2000 CALFED staff described the issue of whether regulatory agencies will view habitat restoration in the South Delta as essential interceptor habitat to protect fish species of concern, or as an attractive nuisance that lures fish to a perilous part of the Delta. Ryan Broddrick suggested a small meeting among the regulatory agencies and others to develop recommendations on this issue, with a report back to the Management Group on March 21. The meeting of regulatory agencies and others took place on March 16.

Recommendation: Pursue habitat restoration throughout the Delta, consistent with Stage 1 acreage targets, with no special emphasis or avoidance of the southern half of the Delta. Stage 1 results will guide future adaptive management.

There was agreement to support the general approach recommended by DFG, which includes Stage 1 habitat restoration distributed roughly equally throughout the Delta, with no special emphasis or avoidance of the southern half of the Delta. This would provide appropriately-scaled experimentation in Stage 1 to guide future adaptive management.

Near-term technical tasks to support this approach will include:

- Refinement of conceptual models of aquatic habitat use near stressors such as the project pumps.
- Interim Science Board input on the refined conceptual models.
- Development of draft Stage 1 habitat restoration targets in the project area for Ecosystem and Flood Plain Restoration in the Lower San Joaquin River and South Delta Region, consistent with acreage targets in the Phase II Report.
- Coordination with other restoration efforts to ensure good coverage of Delta.
- Public scoping for the project per CALFED work plan.

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board
Department of Food and Agriculture

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Geological Survey
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Forest Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service
Western Area Power Administration