

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 8, 1998
TO: CALFED Policy Group
FROM: Lester A. Snow
Executive Director
SUBJECT: Bay-Delta Accord Extension

SUMMARY

Last December, the Bay-Delta Accord was extended by the state and federal signatories until the end of December 1998. Given the decision to delay release of the final EIS/EIR until late 1999, CALFED agencies believe the Bay-Delta Accord must also be extended again.

This issue was discussed at the last two CALFED Policy Group meetings and again at the most recent CALFED Management Team meeting. At the most recent Policy Group meeting in August, Policy Group agreed to a simple extension of one year (similar to that used in the last extension). At the September Management Team meeting the timing of when to announce the extension was discussed. There was general agreement that the extension should be executed soon (September if possible), to resolve continued stakeholder debate on the issue and allow all parties to move on to the more important issue of developing a draft preferred alternative and releasing the Revised Draft EIS/EIR.

The proposed extension would state, in its entirety:

“The representatives of the State and Federal Governments agree to extend their commitments as stated in the Bay-Delta accord signed on December 15, 1994 and entitled “Principles for Agreement on Bay-Delta Standards between the State of California and the Federal Government” until December 31, 1999, by which time it is anticipated that a record of decision on the CALFED Bay Delta Program will be finalized.”

ACTION

Decision Item. The Policy Group is being asked to make a decision to:

- adopt the specific accord language proposed above
- proceed with finalizing the accord extension and securing signatures
- make appropriate stakeholder communications