

DRAFT
Critical Water Quality Issues for 1999
January 27, 1999

Introduction

This document sets forth the proposed framework and organization for water quality program activities to be undertaken in 1999.

Principles

The following principles will be followed in implementing the CALFED Water Quality Program

1. The Water Quality Technical Group, comprising agency representatives and stakeholders, will continue to be the venue through which technical planning of Water Quality activities is implemented.
2. Independent experts will be relied upon to provide ongoing peer review and independent evaluation of the Water Quality Program and its success in implementation actions to prevent and correct water quality problems, and to provide recommendations for adaptive management.
3. The Water Quality Program will continue to be developed and implemented with broad stakeholder involvement.
4. The Water Quality Program will be coordinated as fully as possible with ongoing activities, programs, and processes that affect, or are affected by, the Water Quality Program. In particular, effort will be made to coordinate agency regulatory responsibilities such as to provide appropriate incentives for water quality improvement, and to enhance opportunities for forming partnerships among governmental and private interests.
5. To the maximum extent practicable, existing programs and capabilities will be employed and amplified upon to meet CALFED goals and objectives.
6. Water Quality Program management will emphasize voluntary, cooperative efforts to improve water quality, but will work with regulatory entities to assure program goals are accomplished where voluntary efforts may prove insufficient.

Critical Water Quality Issues for 1999

The following pages outline the critical water quality issues to be addressed in 1999.

Critical Issues for 1999

Topic Water Quality Program Implementation Structure

Critical Issue #1

Create an interim organizational structure for implementing the first stage of the Water Quality Program in 1999.

Process for Stakeholder and Agency Involvement

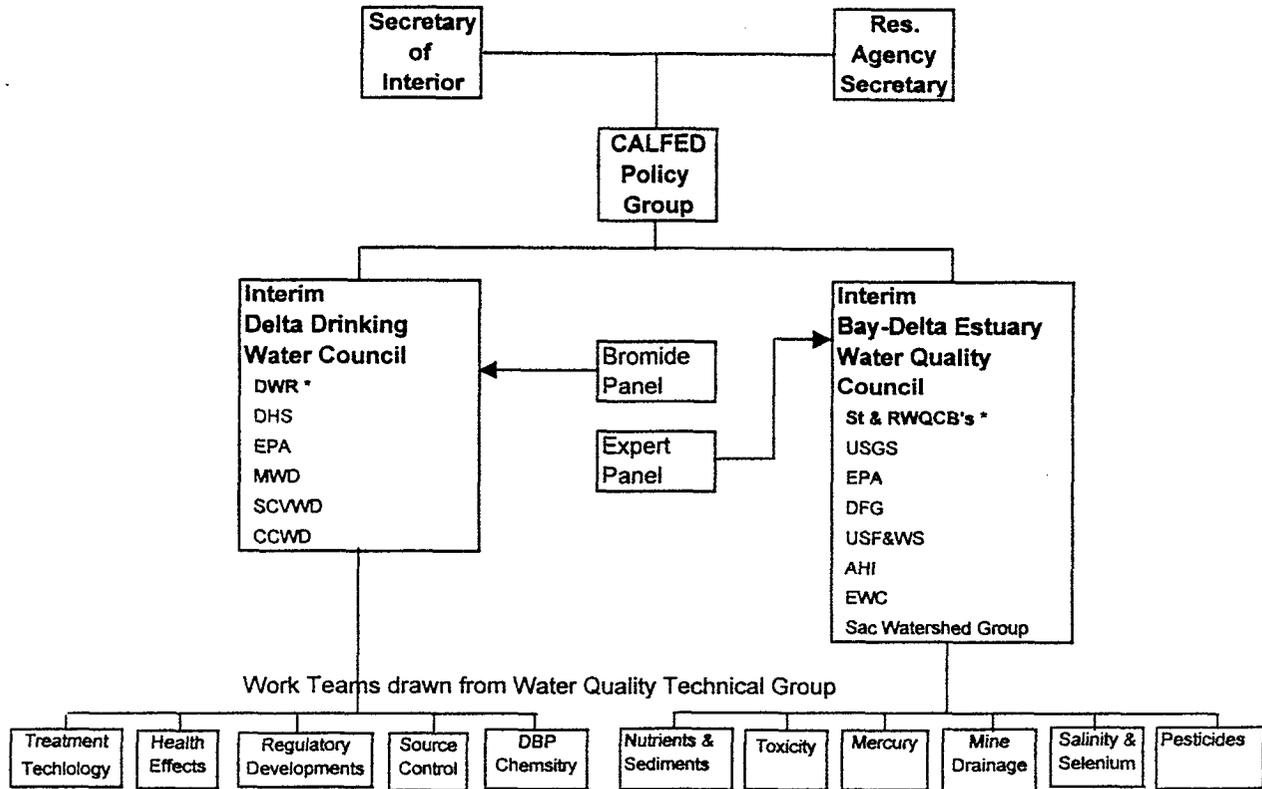
Figure 1 depicts a proposed structure and depicts the proposed representation. The concept underlying this structure is an assumption that the Water Quality Program must be implemented by agencies having the necessary administrative infrastructure, including budgetary and personnel authority. Drinking water quality and ecosystem water quality would be organized under separate functions because of the different nature of the activities and because of the different constituencies involved. The Department of Water Resources would be lead agency for the Interim Delta Drinking Water Council (DWC) because this agency has responsibility for the State Water Project, the facility that delivers drinking water supply to most of the population of the State who receive their drinking water from the Delta. The State and Regional Water Quality Control Boards would be lead agency for the Interim Ecosystem Water Quality Council (EWQC) because the agency has regulatory responsibility for water quality constituents affecting the ecosystem of the Bay-Delta estuary and its tributaries. After formation of the DWC and the EWQC the CALFED Water Quality Program would cease to exist.

Time frame

By March 1, 1999

FIGURE 1

Proposed Structure for Implementing the CALFED Water Quality Program



* Lead Agency

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Critical Issues for 1999

Topic Water Quality Program Work Plan

Critical Issue #2

Create a work plan for implementing first stage Water Quality Program actions in 1999.

Process for Stakeholder and Agency Involvement

The Interim Delta Drinking Water Council (DWC) and Interim Bay-Delta Estuary Ecosystem Water Quality Council (EWQC) will:

- identify priority actions for commencement in 1999
- develop interim water quality milestones tied to these actions
- gain management approval of these priorities and milestones.

When this is accomplished, work teams drawn from the Water Quality Technical Group (the body of technical water quality advisors who have participated in program development) will be organized and tasked to develop detailed work plans, including specific tasks to be accomplished, recommendations on which entities should implement actions, and resources required. These work plans will be developed with the oversight of, and approved by, the DWC and EWQC and by CALFED management.

Timeframe

By June 1, 1999.

Critical Issues for 1999

Topic Water Quality Program Implementation Plan

Critical Issue #3

Create an implementation plan for the first stage Water Quality Program actions in 1999.

Process for Stakeholder and Agency Involvement

The Interim Delta Drinking Water Council (DWC) and Interim Bay-Delta Ecosystem Water Quality Council (EWQC) will have responsibility for developing plans for staffing, funding, and other infrastructure requirements for program implementation, and will work with legislative staff and agency staffs as necessary to implement plans for resources acquisition, subject to oversight and concurrence of CALFED management. Also, the DWC and EWQC will be responsible for delineating the roles of the various regulatory entities relative to implementation of the CALFED Water Quality Program, and for defining the relationship between CALFED water quality actions and the programs of regulatory agencies. The Councils will prepare and submit to CALFED management for approval, specific plans whereby state and federal regulatory frameworks will be coordinated so as to provide appropriate incentives to implement the CALFED Water Quality Program. The DWC and EWQC will also have overall responsibility for coordinating implementation of the CALFED Water Quality Program with the activities of other entities engaged in water quality activities related to the Bay-Delta estuary in such a manner as to build upon existing efforts and to avoid duplication and overlap of efforts.

The DWC and EWQC will assume overall responsibility to assure that the body of work to be accomplished during the first stage of program implementation is clearly delineated and approved by CALFED management, and that a workable plan is approved by management for completing the work within the required time frame. The EWC and EWQC will also formulate and submit to CALFED management a plan for how the results of the work will be used in making a decision at the end of the first stage of program implementation as to whether further actions will be needed to achieve CALFED water quality goals.

Panels of independent nationally recognized experts having reputations for independence will be utilized at appropriate intervals by the DWC and EWQC to provide independent review of program elements and to make recommendations for improving the scientific value of water quality activities. The expert panels will be asked to formulate recommendations to CALFED management and the Legislature for further CALFED actions as necessary to attain CALFED water quality goals, and will work through the DWC and EWQC in order to fulfill this responsibility.

Timeframe

By December 31, 1999.