

Draft

Bundles of Stage 1 Early Implementation Actions

Introduction

Based on discussions with CALFED Program Managers proposed high priority actions have been identified for implementation prior to or shortly after the completion of Phase II. These actions are selected in order to address some of the most critical problems facing the Bay-Delta system, to achieve a fair and well balanced suite of actions, and to develop the scientific information required to guide later implementation actions according to the principles of adaptive management.

The actions have been grouped into 7 bundles (see attached table), either to provide a balanced suite of actions for specific regions within the CALFED problem and solution, or to provide programmatic balance between actions which are not necessarily associated with any specific geographic area. Once these bundles have been fully reviewed and refined, specific linkage mechanisms need to be identified to assure that the bundled actions indeed move forward together as intended. A wide range of bundling mechanisms may be applied, including contracts, inter-agency agreements, legislation (including bond acts), and individual agency funding commitments.

The 7 bundles are described below, in no particular order of priority:

Lower San Joaquin River Region Bundle

This bundle is designed to address the regional concerns regarding south Delta and lower San Joaquin River and south Delta fisheries, water quality, water supply reliability, recreation, flood control, and wildlife habitat. The proposed actions are designed to conduct feasibility and environmental evaluations and implement corrective actions in the region as well as in upstream watersheds which affect the quality and quantity of flows in the San Joaquin River.

Lower Sacramento River, North Delta Bundle

This bundle is designed to develop an balanced solution to concerns surrounding fishery and water quality impacts of diversions from the Sacramento River into the central Delta, to address regional flood concerns, and to substantially enhance riparian and wetlands habitat corridors in the region.

Yolo Bypass, West Delta Bundle

This bundle is designed to address group water quality, fisheries protection, and habitat enhancement actions for the west Delta region, including Suisun Marsh, the west Delta

islands, and the Yolo Bypass. Because expansion of wetlands in the Yolo Bypass area could exacerbate the potential toxicity effects of mercury originating in the Cache Creek basin, this bundle includes substantial research to identify those sources and potential remediation tools.

Delta-Wide ERP/Levees Bundle

This bundle is designed to achieve a reasonable balance between implementation of ecosystem improvement actions and levee system improvement actions. In addition this bundle includes actions to improve fisheries, water quality, and habitat throughout the Delta, including protection and enhancement of Delta in-channel islands.

Integrated Water Management Bundle

This bundle includes actions which can lead to improvements in water supply reliability and flexibility through improvements in water use efficiency, water transfers, water storage and conveyance facilities (groundwater and surface water), water quality, and water associated habitats. The proposed actions include the Program problem area and solution areas, including state and federal project service areas and upper watersheds. It includes key actions that comprise the Integrated Storage Investigation.

Sacramento River, San Joaquin River and Tributaries Bundle

This bundle includes ecosystem restoration (primarily fisheries habitat, hatchery management, and meander belt restoration along key river reaches, coupled with flood control actions to achieve an appropriate balance.

Governance Bundle

This bundle addresses certain organizational issues which need to be addressed to assure that orderly implementation of Program actions can occur as the level of activity increases substantially. These issues include the potential formation of a CALFED management entity, an ERP implementation entity, an entity for coordinated implementation of program monitoring activities, and actions to assure that water quality and water use efficiency measures can be fully implemented.