THE CALFED PROGRAMMATIC DECISION
April 20, 1999

The CALFED Agencies are developing a long-term comprehensive plan to restore ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta System. To achieve this goal, the CALFED Program seeks to restore ecological health, improve water quality, improve water supply reliability and ensure levee and channel integrity. Although the CALFED agencies are reaching a programmatic decision, the details of how that program will be implemented, funded and assured are essential to agency and stakeholder confidence that the broad direction of the program is acceptable. The tasks facing the agencies, therefore, the are to decide long-term policy direction, develop a plan to fix the delta, begin to implement that plan, and finally, to identify funding, governance and linking actions to assure the long-term program will be implemented and operated as agreed.

The CALFED agencies are currently completing a draft programmatic environmental impact statement and report (EIS/EIR) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). That document examines differing ways of meeting the program goals. The CALFED agencies have identified a preferred program alternative as part of this environmental review. The draft programmatic EIS/EIR analyzes the environmental implications of each of the alternatives and compares them to the existing conditions and to the expected future conditions without any CALFED action. The Preferred Program Alternative (see A below) describes the policy direction and long-term plan the CALFED agencies propose to follow in this effort. A programmatic decision is useful in the present case because it allows the agencies to examine cumulative impacts of individual, but geographically related, issues. It is also necessary to conduct the environmental review at a programmatic level because of the number of actions, length of time of implementation, and the complexity of the problems and solutions being considered.

A programmatic analysis, however, does not provide information of sufficient detail to allow the agencies to determine precisely how each program element will be carried out over the life of the program, or to assess all of the site-specific environmental consequences of these actions. Agencies and stakeholders seek greater certainty regarding the types of actions to be implemented and a tentative schedule for doing so. Detail at a greater level of specificity than is available at a programmatic level of analysis is important to understanding how a large, complex program may be implemented. The CALFED agencies have described their actions for the first years following a Record of Decision. These actions provide an opportunity to begin to assess the site-specific environmental consequences of implementing the program. Section B describes the near-term actions that will be analyzed for site-specific compliance with CEQA, NEPA, and permitting requirements.

Virtually all the near-term actions share two characteristics. First, they are designed to achieve multiple benefits. Second, they will be implemented in ways that increase our knowledge of the system so that we can adapt subsequent actions to increase effectiveness.

The near-term actions are parts of an integrated program that will yield multiple benefits. Nearly every action proposed will provide benefits in two or more resource areas at the same time, thus increasing program benefits and minimizing costs. In addition, there is synergy among actions that are geographically or functionally related. Thus, implementation is described not in terms of actions such as levee improvements or ecosystem restoration projects, but according to the achievement of multiple program objectives in a region through implementation of actions that are functionally integrated. There are virtually no single-benefit actions.

While many actions are described in terms of regional implementation, the multiple benefits derived from water management actions are most clearly demonstrated if these actions are described in terms of coordinated water management throughout the Bay-Delta system. This coordinated implementation is referred to as the CALFED Water Management Strategy. The Water Management Strategy is a flexible approach that will continually examine the potential of all available water management tools to contribute to the achievement of program objectives. The tools include water use efficiency, water transfers, water recycling, watershed management, water quality improvements, conveyance facilities, and groundwater and surface storage opportunities. These tools can all be used in varying combinations, depending on hydrologic and environmental conditions, to meet all four program objectives.

One part of the continuing refinement of the water management strategy is the Integrated Storage Investigation being conducted by CALFED. This investigation will evaluate surface storage, groundwater storage, power facility reoperation and the potential for conjunctive operation of these different types of storage to achieve multiple program objectives. Additionally, the nature of these investigations will provide an important opportunity to prepare a comprehensive assessment and prioritization of critical fish migration barriers for modification or removal. The Integrated Storage Investigation will enable us to use existing facilities in ways that maximize program benefits, assess the desirability of modifying other facilities where their costs exceed benefits, and consider the costs and multiple benefits of additional groundwater or surface storage in the context of an integrated water management strategy.

The second characteristic shared by program actions is a structure that facilitates adaptive management. Actions are designed according to our current understanding of the system, and will be monitored so that we can confirm our understanding or modify subsequent actions to be more effective. This adaptive management approach will increase the ability to meet multiple objectives by maintaining the flexibility necessary to respond to new information, changing conditions, and improved understanding.

Finally, the means by which the CALFED Program alternative is funded and assured provides additional assurance that the program will be successfully implemented. Section C describes a strategy for providing financing, governance and addressing additional concerns about successfully implementing the program.

The CALFED Programmatic Decision, therefore, includes the following:

A. PREFERRED PROGRAMMATIC ALTERNATIVE

The Preferred Program Alternative consists of a set of broadly described programmatic actions which set the long-term, overall direction of the CALFED Program. The description is programmatic in nature, intended to help agencies and the public make decisions on broad methods to meet Program purposes. The alternative is made up of the Levee System Integrity Program, Water Quality Program, Ecosystem Restoration Program, Water Use Efficiency Program, Water Transfers Program, Watershed Program, Storage and Delta Conveyance.

Even in this broad programmatic description, actions are intended to take place in an integrated framework and not independently of the other programs. While each program element is described individually, it is understood that only through coordinated, linked, incremental implementation can we effectively resolve problems in the Bay-Delta system.

Levee System Integrity Program

The focus of the Levee System Integrity Program is to improve levee stability to benefit all users of Delta water and land. Actions described in this program element protect water supply reliability by maintaining levee and channel integrity. Levee actions will be designed to provide simultaneous improvement in habitat quality, which will indirectly improve water supply reliability. Levee actions also protect water quality, particularly during low flow conditions when a catastrophic levee breach would draw salty water into the Delta

There are five main parts to the levee program plus Suisun Marsh levee rehabilitation work:

- Delta Levee Base Level Protection Plan - Improve and maintain Delta levee system stability to meet the Corps' PL 84-99 levee standard.
- Delta Levee Special Improvement Projects - Enhance flood protection for key islands that provide statewide benefits to the ecosystem, water supply, water quality, economics, infrastructure, etc.
- Delta Levee Subsidence Control Plan - Implement current best management practices (BMPs) to correct subsidence adjacent to levees and coordinate research to quantify the effects and extent of inner-island subsidence.
- Delta Levee Emergency Management and Response Plan - The emergency management and response plan will build on existing state, federal, and local agency emergency management programs.
- Delta Levee Risk Assessment- Perform a risk assessment to quantify the major risks to Delta resources from floods, seepage, subsidence and earthquakes, evaluate the consequences, and develop recommendations to manage the risk.
- Suisun Marsh Levees- Rehabilitate Suisun Marsh levees.

Water Quality Program

The CALFED Program is committed to achieving continuous improvement in the quality of

the waters of the Bay-Delta System with the goal of minimizing ecological, drinking water and other water quality problems, and to maintaining this quality once achieved. Improvements in water quality will result in improved ecosystem health, with indirect improvements in water supply reliability. Improvements in water quality also increase the utility of water, making it suitable for more uses.

The Water Quality Program includes the following actions:

- Drinking water parameters - Reduce the loads and/or impacts of bromide, total organic carbon, pathogens, nutrients, salinity, and turbidity through a combination of measures that include source reduction, alternative sources of water, treatment, storage and if necessary, conveyance improvements such as a screened diversion structure (up to 4000 cfs) on the Sacramento River near Hood. The Conveyance section of this document includes a discussion of this potential improvement.
- Pesticides - Reduce the impacts of pesticides through (1) development and implementation of BMPs, for both urban and agricultural uses; and (2) support of pesticide studies for regulatory agencies, while providing education and assistance in implementation of control strategies for the regulated pesticide users.
- Organochlorine pesticides - Reduce the load of organochlorine pesticides in the system by reducing runoff and erosion from agricultural lands through BMPs.
- Trace metals - Reduce the impacts of trace metals, such as copper, cadmium, and zinc, in upper watershed areas near abandoned mine sites. Reduce the impacts of copper through urban storm water programs and agricultural BMPs.
- Mercury - Reduce mercury levels in rivers and the estuary by source control at inactive and abandoned mine sites.
- Selenium - Reduce selenium impacts through reduction of loads at their sources and through appropriate land fallowing and land retirement programs.
- Salinity - Reduce salt sources in urban and industrial wastewater to protect drinking and agricultural water supplies, and facilitate development of successful water recycling, source water blending, and groundwater storage programs. Salinity in the Delta will be controlled both by limiting salt loadings from its tributaries, and through managing seawater intrusion by such means as using storage capability to maintain Delta outflow and to adjust timing of outflow, and by export management.
- Turbidity and sedimentation - Reduce turbidity and sedimentation, which adversely affect several areas in the Bay Delta and its tributaries.
- Low dissolved oxygen - Reduce the impairment of rivers and the estuary from substances that exert excessive demand on dissolved oxygen.
- Toxicity of unknown origin - Through research and monitoring, identify parameters of concern in the water and sediment and implement actions to reduce their impacts to aquatic resources.

Ecosystem Restoration Program

The goal of the Ecosystem Restoration Program is to improve and increase aquatic and terrestrial habitats, improve ecological functions in the Bay-Delta in order to support sustainable populations of diverse and valuable plant and animal species. Improvements in ecosystem health will reduce the conflict between environmental water use and other beneficial uses, and allow more flexibility in water management decisions.

Representative Ecosystem Restoration Program actions include:

- Restoring, protecting, and managing diverse habitat types representative of the Bay-Delta and its watershed.
- Restoring critical in-stream and channel-forming flows in Bay-Delta tributaries.
- Improving Delta outflow during key periods in spring.
- Reconnecting Bay-Delta tributaries with their floodplains through the construction of setback levees, the acquisition of flood easements, and the construction and management of flood bypasses for both habitat restoration and flood protection.
- Developing assessment, prevention and control programs for invasive species.
- Restoring aspects of the sediment regime by relocating in-stream and floodplain gravel mining, and by artificially introducing gravels to compensate for sediment trapped by dams.
- Modifying or eliminating fish passage barriers, including the removal of dams, construction of fish ladders, and construction of fish screens that use the best available technology.
- Targeting research to provide information that is needed to define problems sufficiently, and to design and prioritize restoration actions.

Water Use Efficiency Program

The Water Use Efficiency Program includes actions to assure efficient use of existing and any new water supplies developed by the Program. Efficiency actions can alter the pattern of water diversions and reduce the magnitude of diversions, providing ecosystem benefits. Efficiency actions can also result in reduced discharge of effluent or drainage, improving water quality.

Water conservation-related actions include:

- Implement agricultural and urban conservation incentives programs to provide grant funding for water management projects that will provide multiple benefits which are cost-effective at the state-wide level, including improved water quality and reduced ecosystem impacts.
- Identify, in region-specific strategic plans for agricultural areas, measurable objectives to assure improvements in water management.
- Expand state and federal programs to provide increased levels of planning and technical assistance to local water suppliers.
- Work with the Agricultural Water Management Council (AWMC) to identify appropriate agricultural water conservation measures, set appropriate levels of

effort, and certify or endorse water suppliers that are implementing locally cost-effective feasible measures.

- Work with the California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC) to establish an urban water conservation certification process and set appropriate levels of effort in order to ensure that water suppliers are implementing cost-effective feasible measures.
- Help urban water suppliers comply with the Urban Water Management Planning Act.
- Identify and implement practices to improve water management for wildlife areas
- Gather better information on water use, identify opportunities to improve water use efficiency, and measure the effectiveness of conservation practices.
- Conduct directed studies and research to improve understanding of conservation actions.

Water recycling actions include:

- Help local and regional agencies comply with the water recycling provisions in the Urban Water Management Planning Act.
- Expand state and federal recycling programs to provide increased levels of planning, technical, and financing assistance (both loans and grants) and to develop new ways of providing assistance in the most effective manner.
- Provide regional planning assistance that can increase opportunities for the use of recycled water.

Water Transfer Program

The Water Transfer Program proposes a framework of actions, policies, and processes that, collectively, will facilitate water transfers and the further development of a state-wide water transfer market. The framework also includes mechanisms to provide protection from third party impacts. A transfers market can improve water availability for all users, including the environment. Transfers can also help to match water demand with water sources of the appropriate quality, thus increasing the utility of water supplies.

The Water Transfer Program will include the following actions and recommendations:

- Establish a California Water Transfer Information Clearinghouse to provide a public informational role. The clearinghouse would 1) ensure that information regarding proposed transfers is publically disclosed and, 2) perform on-going research and data collection functions to improve the understanding of water transfers and their potential beneficial and adverse effects.
- Require water transfer proposals submitted to the Department of Water Resources, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, or the State Water Resources Control Board to include analysis of potential groundwater, socio-economic, or cumulative impacts as warranted by individual transfers (i.e., a temporary transfer of water stored in a reservoir is unlikely to have socio-economic effects, but a

transfer that involves significant land fallowing most likely will).

- Streamline the water transfer approval process currently used by the Department of Water Resources, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, or the State Water Resources Control Board. This would include clarifying and disclosing current approval procedures and underlying policies as well as improving the communication between transfer proponents, reviewing agencies, and other potentially affected parties.
- Refine quantification guidelines used by water transfer approving agencies when they are reviewing a proposed water transfer. This will include resolving issues between stakeholders and approving agencies regarding the application of current agency-based quantification criteria.
- Improve the accessability of state and federal conveyance and storage facilities for the transport of approved water transfers.
- Clearly define carriage water requirements and resolve conflicts over reservoir refill criteria such that transfer proponents are acutely aware of the implications of these requirements. Solutions will be based on the principle of adaptive management which will allow for continued refinement of these requirements as information regarding their necessity improves.
- Identify appropriate assistance for groundwater protection programs through interaction with CALFED agencies, stakeholders, the legislature and local agencies. This is intended to assist local agencies in the development and implementation of groundwater management programs that will protect groundwater basins in water transfer source areas.
- Establish new accounting, tracking, and monitoring methods to aid instream flow transfers under California Water Code Section 1707.

Watershed Program

The Watershed Program provides assistance, financial and technical, to local watershed programs that benefit the Bay-Delta system. Watershed actions can improve reliability by shifting the timing of flows, increasing base flows and reducing peak flows. This also helps to maintain levee integrity during high flow periods. Other watershed actions will improve water quality by reducing discharge of parameters of concern.

The Watershed Program includes the following elements:

- Support local watershed activities - Implement watershed restoration, maintenance, and conservation activities that support the goals and objectives of the Program including improved river functions.
- Facilitate coordination and assistance - Facilitate and improve coordination and assistance between government agencies, other organizations, and local watershed groups.
- Develop watershed monitoring and assessment protocols - Facilitate monitoring efforts that are consistent with the CALFED's protocols and support watershed activities that ensure that adaptive management processes can be applied.

- Support education and outreach - Support resource conservation education at the local watershed level, and provide organizational and administrative support to watershed programs.
- Define watershed processes and relationships - Identify the watershed functions and processes that are relevant to the CALFED goals and objectives, and provide examples of watershed activities that could improve these functions and processes.

Storage

Groundwater and /or surface water storage can be used to improve water supply reliability, provide water for the environment at times when it is needed most, provide flows timed to maintain water quality, and protect levees through coordinated operation with existing flood control reservoirs. Decisions to construct groundwater and/or surface water storage will be predicated upon complying with all program linkages, including:

- Completion of the Integrated Storage Investigation which includes an assessment of groundwater storage, surface storage, re-operation of power facilities and a fish barrier assessment;
- Demonstrated progress in meeting the Program's water use efficiency, water reclamation and water transfer program targets;
- Implementation of groundwater monitoring and modeling programs; and
- Compliance with all environmental review and permitting requirements.

New groundwater and/or surface water storage will be developed and constructed, together with aggressive implementation of water conservation, recycling and a protective water transfer market, as appropriate to meet CALFED Program goals. During Stage 1, CALFED will evaluate and determine the appropriate mix of surface water and groundwater storage, identify acceptable projects and initiate permitting and construction if program linkages and conditions are satisfied.

The total volume of surface and groundwater storage being assessed for this alternative range up to 6.25 million acre feet, and facility locations being considered are located in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys and in the Delta.

Conveyance

Modifications in Delta conveyance will result in improved water supply reliability, protection and improvement of Delta water quality, improvements in ecosystem health, and reduced risk of supply disruption due to catastrophic breaching of Delta levees. The through-Delta conveyance facility actions include:

- construction of a new screened intake at Clifton Court Forebay with protective screening criteria;
- construction of either a new screened diversion at Tracy with protective screening criteria; and/or an expansion of the new diversion at Clifton Court Forebay to meet the Tracy Pumping Plant export capacity;

- implementation of the Joint Point of Diversion for the SWP and CVP, and construction of interties;
- construction of an operable barrier at the head of Old River to improve conditions for salmon migrating up and down the San Joaquin River;
- construction of operable barriers, or their equivalent, to maintain water stage and water quality in south Delta channels;
- operational changes to the SWP operating rules to allow export pumping up to the current physical capacity of the SWP export facilities
- determination of operating criteria for the Delta Cross Channel;
- study and evaluate a screened diversion structure on the Sacramento River (or equivalent water quality actions) as a measure to improve drinking water quality in the event that the Water Quality Program measures do not result in adequate improvements toward CALFED's drinking water quality goals. This evaluation would consider how to operate the Delta Cross Channel in conjunction with this new diversion structure to improve drinking water quality, while maintaining fish recovery.
- if the Water Quality Program measures are consistently not achieving drinking water quality goals, and the evaluation demonstrates that a screened diversion of up to 4000 cfs would help achieve those goals without adversely affecting fish populations; a pilot screened diversion would be constructed. This pilot would likely include a fish screen, pumps and a channel between the Sacramento and Mokelumne River. The design, size and operating rules for this pilot facility would include an analysis of impacts to upstream and downstream migrating fish as well as impacts from habitat shifts resulting from increased flows in the eastern Delta on Delta species. Following evaluation of the pilot facility operations, a final decision would be made on whether the diversion channel and structure should continue to be used, and if so, what the operational rules and optimum size of the diversion should be.
- Construct new setback levees or dredging along the Mokelumne River from Interstate 5 downstream to the San Joaquin River.

The Preferred Program Alternative also includes a process for determining the conditions under which any additional conveyance facilities and/or other water management actions would be taken in the future. The process would include:

- An evaluation of how water suppliers can best provide a level of public health protection equivalent to Delta source water quality of 50 ppb Bromide and 3 ppm TOC.
- An evaluation based on independent expert panels' reports–one on CALFED's progress toward these measurable water quality goals and the second on CALFED's progress toward ecosystem restoration objectives, with particular emphasis on fisheries recovery.

B. NEAR-TERM ACTIONS

Implementation of actions begins in Phase III. This period will include site-specific environmental review and permitting as necessary. The first stage of Program implementation is critical to its long-term success because it will serve as an indication of the CALFED agencies and stakeholder community capacity to act on a cost-effective, practical, and equitable set of actions which advance the Program objectives.

The preliminary actions have been grouped into 7 bundles either to provide a balanced suite of actions for specific regions within the CALFED problem and solution areas, or to provide programmatic balance between actions which are not necessarily associated with any specific geographic area. The bundles highlight certain critical ongoing programs which will require implementation decisions in the near future, but do not include the many other ongoing monitoring and improvement programs in the Bay-Delta region.

Lower San Joaquin River and South Delta 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 preliminary 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 a 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, Suisun Marsh, and West Delta Bundle
This bundle is designed to address 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.

Sacramento River, San Joaquin River and Tributaries Bundle
This bundle includes ecosystem restoration primarily fisheries habitat, hatchery management,

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and floodplain and meander belt restoration along key river reaches.

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.

Governance Bundle
This bundle addresses certain organizational issues 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.

C. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

CALFED is developing an implementation strategy to assure the program is successfully implemented. These assurances include:

- an adaptive management philosophy and process employed throughout the implementation period;
- actions and decisions which are implemented over time to make use of information gained during early implementation;
- coordinated oversight and policy guidance as well as assignment of responsibilities for each of the program's elements;
- a financial plan; and
- an environmental compliance strategy.

Adaptive Management
No long term plan for management of a system as complex as the Bay-Delta can predict exactly how the system will respond to Program efforts or foresee events such as earthquakes, climate change, or the introduction of new species to the system. Adaptive management, as an essential Program concept, acknowledges that there is a need to constantly monitor the system and adapt the actions that are taken to restore ecological health and improve water management. These adaptations will be necessary as conditions change and as more is learned about the system and how it responds. The Program's objectives will remain fixed over time, but the actions may be adjusted to assure that the solution is durable.

Adaptive management utilizes monitoring, assessment and research tools for continuous refinement of Program actions. The information generated from monitoring, assessment, and research will be used to assess the effectiveness of existing actions, to guide additional research

and to modify the actions of each of the CALFED programs to improve CALFED's ability to meet its goals and objectives.

Staged Implementation and Decision Making

CALFED has decided to implement the Program through stages and begin with a series of near-term actions (see following section entitled "Near-term Actions). Like implementation, the decision process will be staged to allow better decisions at the appropriate time. The preferred program alternative is composed of hundreds of individual actions that will be implemented and refined over the 20 to 30 year implementation period. Therefore, it is logical to implement the Program as well as make decisions in stages according to major program milestones. In this way, adaptive management can be applied equally well to a series of incremental actions such as ecosystem restoration or for major single decision projects such as surface storage or conveyance.

Staged implementation for the CALFED preferred program alternative involves identifying actions for implementation for which there is general agreement and justification, and also developing conditions for future decisions. For some actions, certain predefined conditions would need to be met before actions could proceed. For example, certain conditions would be linked to the decision to construct major facilities. These linked decisions on several program elements may be required at each stage of implementation.

Governance Plan

By the time of the Record of Decision and certification of the final EIS/EIR (ROD/CERT), CALFED will develop and adopt a governance plan for all components of the CALFED program. To the extent agreement on governance is reached before the ROD/CERT, actions will begin PreROD/CERT to implement the governance changes (e.g. federal and state legislation). New legislation is expected to be required to adopt the long term governance structure. Because legislation could take several years to adopt, an interim governance structure will be adopted by the time of the ROD/CERT to allow for an efficient transition from CALFED planning to implementation. The governance plan will include:

- Governance Structure for Oversight Functions. CALFED will propose an interim and long term governance structure to provide oversight, policy/program guidance and program assessment for the CALFED program.
- Governance Structure for each Program Element. CALFED will propose interim and long term governance structures for each program element to provide program management, coordination, and assessment.
- Authority and Relationships. For the long term governance structures, the governance plan will describe the relationship between the oversight entity and the entities assigned program element management and implementation responsibilities. CALFED will describe and recommend any change in authority or new authority that are needed to effectively implement the CALFED program

Finance Plan

By the time of the ROD/CERT, CALFED will develop and adopt a financial plan for all components of the CALFED program. To the extent agreement on a finance plan is reached before the ROD/CERT, actions will be taken PreROD/CERT to implement the plan (e.g. federal and state legislation). The primary components of a finance plan include:

- Program implementation cost estimates. The cost estimate for actions proposed in Stage I will be refined. These proposed actions and the corresponding cost estimates provide the basis for developing the finance strategy.
- Crosscut budget evaluation. An evaluation of related state and federal programs will be conducted and incorporated in the fiance strategy and funding requests. This process will identify existing funding and programs that can be used to support proposed CALFED actions.
- Finance strategies and principles. For each CALFED program element a finance strategy will be developed. A key element of this strategy is the assessment of program benefits and beneficiaries. Based on this assessment, CALFED will recommend an appropriate cost share between funding sources (federal, state, private) to support program actions.
- Crediting Policy. CALFED will include a crediting policy in the finance plan. The policy will identify which expenditures and accounts can be credited toward a CALFED program.
- Cost share agreements. The finance plan will include final agreements between state government, federal government, and beneficiaries describing the cost share requirements that will be agreed to support the CALFED program.

Environmental Compliance

Implementation of the CALFED Program will involve regulatory oversight from a number of federal, state and local government agencies that operate within a complex framework of of laws and regulations. To ensure timely implementation of CALFED actions, a coordinated environmental documentation and permitting process is being established. This approach should help facilitate implementation of projects, should benefit public participation and effectively reduce duplication while maintaining important environmental safeguards.

A multi-species conservation strategy (MSCS) will be part of the overall environmental compliance package. The MSCS is a comprehensive species and habitats conservation program that addresses the multiple species and habitat needs and the maintenance of ecological functions within the CALFED Program area. The MSCS includes species and habitats at the ecosystem level and provides for the integration of species specific conservation strategies at both the site-specific and landscape level.

The MSCS document includes, at a programmatic level, all of CALFED's actions and provides a framework for site- and action-specific compliance with the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts. Action specific analysis will be conducted in an Action Specific Implementation Plan (ASIP) addressing the impact and conservation measures for specific actions (e.g.

Ecosystem Restoration Program actions, levee protection projects, etc.) which in combination with the MSCS, will form the basis for obtaining authorization to incidentally take species (take authorizations) pursuant to Federal Endangered Species Act, the California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act and/or the State Endangered Species Act.

The MSCS includes an evaluation of CALFED actions on 205 species (evaluated species). The list of evaluated species includes all Federally and California listed, proposed and candidate species that may be affected by the CALFED Program and for which adequate information is available. The evaluated species list also includes other species identified by CALFED that may be affected by the CALFED Program for which there is adequate information and for which take authorization may be requested. The MSCS's evaluated species list includes species which occur in the Ecosystem Restoration Program's 14 Ecological Zones. Information is being compiled for each of the species, including life history, distribution and habitat requirements, and where available, identified goals/actions for species recovery. Species identified in the MSCS are the evaluation species which are conserved at a level which meets the MSCS's species' goals and which also meet take authorization issuance criteria as set forth in the Acts.

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