



**CALFED  
BAY-DELTA  
PROGRAM**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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For Release

**March 8, 1996 through April 18, 1996**

### **PUBLIC MEETINGS SLATED TO ADDRESS BAY-DELTA SOLUTIONS**

Sacramento, CA-- "If you care about the water that nourishes California's unique environment, supplies your company's factories, irrigates your family's almond orchard, and dilutes your kids' lemonade, we need two hours of your time," says Lester A. Snow, executive director of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program invites Californians to attend one or more public scoping meetings scheduled throughout the state from April 9 through April 18, 1996, to discuss ways of solving long-term problems affecting the region at the confluence of the San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento/San Joaquin River Delta (the Bay-Delta).

This region provides two-thirds of the water for California's homes and businesses, besides irrigating the state's billion-dollar agricultural industry. The largest estuary on the West Coast, the Bay-Delta also includes 70,000 acres of wetlands and supports 120 fish species, including two endangered species, along with hundreds of other wildlife species.

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**CALFED Agencies**

**California**

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

**Federal**

Environmental Protection Agency  
Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Department of Commerce  
National Marine Fisheries Service

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## PUBLIC MEETINGS ADDRESS KEY WATER ISSUES -- 2

At the meetings, members of the public will be asked to comment on the proposed alternative solutions and on the scope of the programmatic environmental review process. The meetings are scheduled as follows.

<b>Oakland</b>	Tuesday, April 9, 1996 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm	MetroCenter Building Eighth and Madison Streets
<b>Walnut Grove</b>	Wednesday, April 10, 1996 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm	Jean Harvie Senior and Community Center 14273 River Road
<b>Red Bluff</b>	Thursday, April 11, 1996 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm	Tehama County Community Center Gardenside Room 1500 South Jackson Road
<b>Sacramento</b>	Monday, April 15, 1996 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm	Red Lion Inn 2001 Point West Way
<b>San Diego</b>	Tuesday, April 16, 1996 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm	Red Lion Hotel/San Diego 7450 Hazard Center Drive
<b>Long Beach</b>	Wednesday, April 17, 1996 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm	Long Beach Renaissance Hotel 111 East Ocean Boulevard
<b>Pasadena</b>	Wednesday, April 17, 1996 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm	Holiday Inn 303 East Cordova
<b>Bakersfield</b>	Thursday, April 18, 1996 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm	Red Lion Inn 3100 Camino Del Rio Court

"Bay-Delta issues are critical to California's future," says Snow. "The programmatic environmental review process will help determine how far-reaching Bay-Delta problems will be addressed over the next several decades. These scoping meetings represent the public's best opportunity to help define the issues that should be studied."

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## **PUBLIC MEETINGS ADDRESS KEY WATER ISSUES -- 3**

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is a cooperative effort among state and federal agencies and the general public to find a realistic, comprehensive solution to Bay-Delta system problems affecting ecosystem health, water quality, water supply, and vulnerability to disaster or gradual deterioration. Launched in early 1995, the Program is designed to develop a broadly-supported, environmentally-sound solution by mid-1998. This solution, which will include a complex array of interdependent actions, will be funded and implemented in segments over several years.

After a year of intense technical analysis and public involvement, including the scoping meetings, the Program will have developed a list of three to five promising alternative solutions by June 1996. Over the following twenty-four months, these solutions will undergo programmatic environmental review as required by the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Protection Act, culminating in release of a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report that identifies the most promising alternative. The actions making up this solution will undergo project-level environmental analyses to identify impacts and mitigation measures, setting the stage for implementation to begin.

The scoping meetings will include a brief presentation and an informal question and answer session, with displays and handouts further explaining the draft alternatives and the environmental review process. Then attendees will be asked for advice on the proposed alternatives and on the significant issues that should be addressed in the environmental document.

No reservations are required. Anyone needing special assistance to participate in the meetings should call Ms. Pauline Nevins at (916) 657-2666 as soon as possible and not later than April 1, 1996, to enable the Program to make reasonable accommodations.

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