Potential Phase II Alternatives Matrix

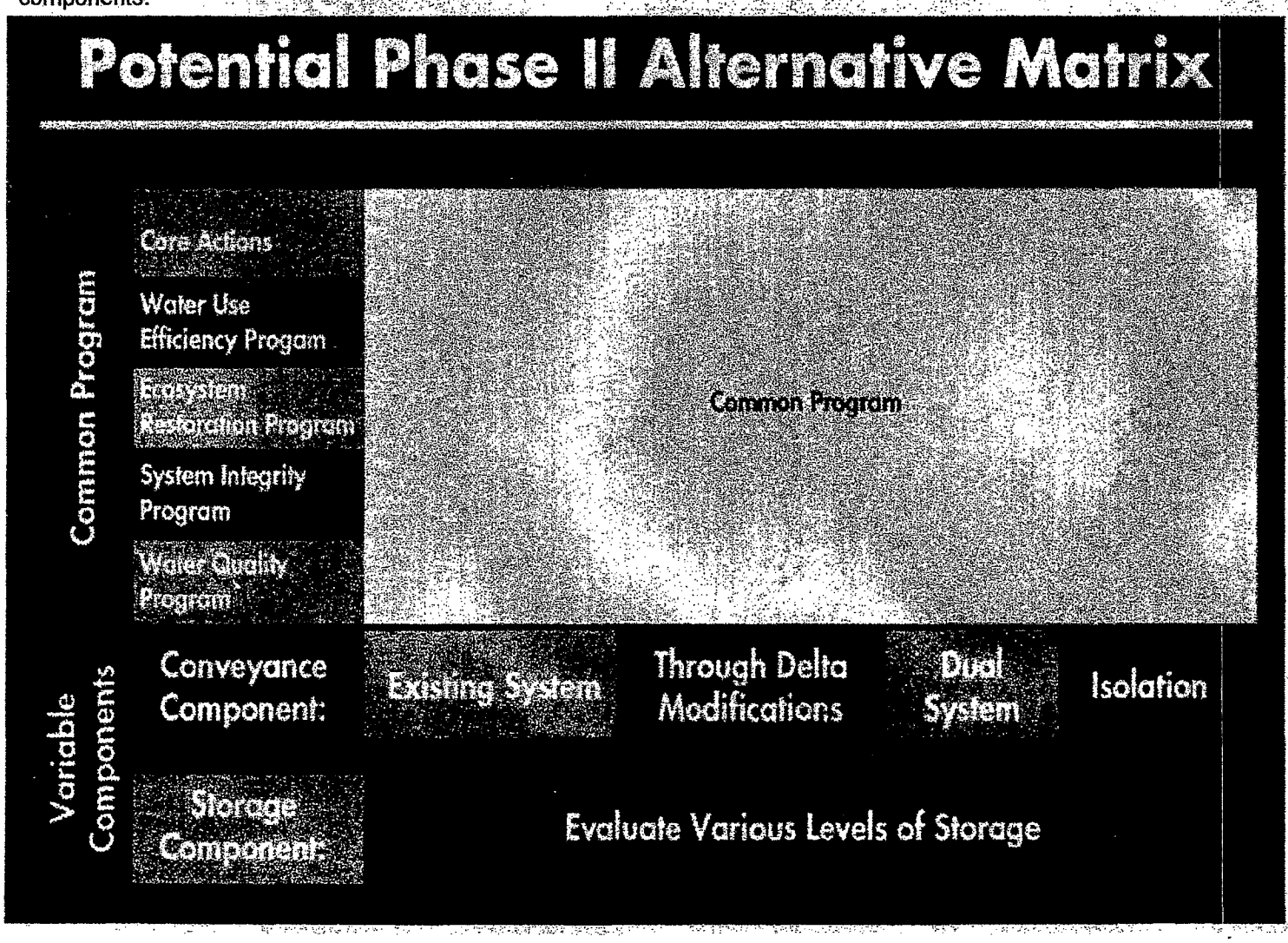
When Program staff, CALFED agencies, and the public evaluated the alternatives against the solution principles, it became clear that certain components—water quality, ecosystem health, water use efficiency, and levee stability—should be implemented at the same high level in every alternative. While these components had previously been included in every alternative, they had been assigned "modest" or "moderate" implementation levels in some alternative.

Accordingly, the Program devised a "common program" of intensive water quality, ecosystem health, water use efficiency, and levee stability actions to appear in every alternative. The alternatives now differ in their conveyance and storage components only (though slight adjustments are made to the common program to adapt to each alternative's different storage and conveyance component). Each alternative uses one of these conveyance options: the existing system, through-Delta modifications, a combination of through-Delta modifications and isolated flow, and a fully isolated system. Likewise, each alternative is intended to include a different combination of groundwater banking, conjunctive use, upstream surface storage, in-Delta surface storage, and downstream surface storage—in a range of possible forms and sizes.

The matrix below illustrates this new concept of creating alternatives by combining a common program and variable components.

Water use efficiency **must be strongly pursued in all the alternatives.**

The best possible source *water quality* is of paramount importance to urban water suppliers.

Delta levees **will be needed to protect agriculture, infrastructure, and habitat no matter how water is conveyed in the Delta.**

Ecosystem actions at the modest and moderate level appear inadequate; the Program needs a single, coherent vision of *ecosystem restoration*.