

# A CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM OVERVIEW — THE RESTORATION COORDINATION PROGRAM —



CALFED  
BAY-DELTA  
PROGRAM

A SERIES OF PROGRAM OVERVIEWS DESIGNED TO HELP YOU BETTER  
UNDERSTAND THE CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM  
MAY 1997

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program's Restoration Coordination Program will identify and prioritize ecosystem restoration projects suitable for early implementation and coordinate other ongoing restoration efforts to ensure consistency with the CALFED Bay-Delta Program's long-term ecosystem restoration strategy, the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan (ERPP).

## Introduction

The December 15, 1994, the Bay-Delta Accord<sup>1</sup> included a commitment to develop and fund non-flow related ecosystem restoration actions to improve the health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. This commitment is commonly referred to as *Category III*. To date, urban water users have contributed \$21.7 million and Proposition 204 included \$60 million in state contributions. A Federal contribution is expected to be appropriated by Congress as well. Some of the specific non-flow factors identified to be addressed as part of the Category III commitment include unscreened water diversions, waste discharges and water pollution prevention, fishery impacts due to harvest and poaching, land derived salts, exotic species, fish barriers, channel alterations, loss of riparian wetlands, and other causes of estuarine habitat degradation.

In addition to the broad consensus on the need to implement near-term ecosystem restoration projects, CALFED and stakeholders recognized the need to better coordinate existing and new restoration programs. Coordination would more efficiently provide greater ecosystem benefits and ensure consistency with the CALFED Bay-Delta Program's long-term ecosystem restoration strategy. Based on these needs, the CALFED Restoration Coordination Program was established. The CALFED Restoration Coordination Program is responsible for administering the Category III funds, and coordinating Category III with other related ecosystem restoration programs and funds.

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is also working to coordinate ongoing CALFED agency activities that address other CALFED program elements such as water quality and levee system integrity.

<sup>1</sup>In December 1994, the Bay-Delta Accord was signed by state and federal agencies, with the cooperation of diverse interest groups. This accord drafted integrated water quality standards, created a state/federal coordination group to better integrate the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project, and committed to the implementation and financing of non-flow Category III measures as a part of Bay-Delta ecosystem restoration.

The mission of  
the CALFED  
Bay-Delta  
Program  
is to develop a  
long-term  
comprehensive  
plan that will  
restore ecological  
health and  
improve water  
management for  
beneficial uses  
of the Bay-Delta  
system.

A Programmatic EIR/EIS analyzes alternatives and their impacts in general terms, reflecting the broad categories of actions comprising a programmatic alternative.

## Relation to Long-Term CALFED Bay-Delta Ecosystem Restoration Program

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is developing a long-term program to address four major areas of concern in the Bay-Delta including ecosystem health, water quality, water supply reliability, and levee system integrity. Alternatives will be evaluated in a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report/Statement (Programmatic EIR/EIS) that is scheduled for public release of a draft in November 1997. A solution that addresses the four resource areas must also meet six solution principles: it must be affordable, equitable, durable, implementable, reduce conflicts in the system, and have no significant redirected impacts.

A comprehensive plan for restoration and management of the Bay-Delta ecosystem is being developed as a common component of each Bay-Delta solution alternative under review. The resulting Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan (ERPP) will provide the foundation for the **long-term** ecosystem restoration effort that may take several decades to implement. The ERPP will be included in each of the alternatives being evaluated in the Programmatic EIR/EIS. With the ERPP providing the blueprint for **long-term** ecosystem restoration, the Restoration Coordination Program is focused on initiating restoration actions consistent with the ERPP that can be started in the **near-term**.

### Ecosystem Restoration Program

A Long-Term program which addresses concerns for ecosystem health over the next several decades using adaptive management.

### Restoration Coordination Program

A Near-Term program which addresses coordination of existing restoration programs and administration of Category III funds.

The ecosystem restoration strategy articulated by the ERPP is designed to reverse the decline in ecosystem health by reducing or eliminating factors which degrade habitat, impair ecological functions, or reduce the population size or health of species. The ERPP will focus on those factors that cause direct mortality of plants and animals in the system, or cause indirect mortality by degrading habitat conditions or biological functions.

Though targeted at near-term actions, the Restoration Coordination Program reflects the long-term strategy being de-

veloped in the ERPP. The planning and project selection process will facilitate early implementation of actions consistent with the ERPP using existing programs and funding commitments. Near-term restoration actions will be evaluated to ensure that they do not prejudice the selection of the long-term solution from the alternatives assessed in the Programmatic EIR/EIS.

### Funding Sources

Funding sources for near-term restoration activities include \$60 million from state Proposition 204 funds (Bay-Delta Agreement Program) and an expected 1997 stakeholder contribution of at least \$10 million to fund the Category III ecosystem restoration commitments in the Bay-Delta Accord, bringing the stakeholder total to more than \$30 million. In addition, Congress authorized \$430 million over the next 3 years to fund the federal share of Category III and

initial implementation of the ERPP. The President's budget for Federal fiscal year 1998 proposes an appropriation of \$143 million under this authorization for Bay-Delta ecosystem restoration. Proposition 204 also included \$390 million for implementation of the ERPP, however, this funding will not be available until after the PEIR/EIS is final.

## Roles & Responsibilities

The current roles of various groups involved in the Restoration Coordination Program are detailed below. Some of the roles and responsibilities described are interim and will probably be replaced when the long-term alternative is selected and implemented.

### BAY-DELTA ADVISORY COUNCIL (BDAC) —

BDAC is chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act to provide input to CALFED agencies regarding the progress and process of the CALFED By-Delta Program. It has established several fact-finding workgroups to address discrete issues associated with the long-term program. In addition, BDAC has appointed a subcommittee, the Ecosystem Roundtable, to provide advice on near-term ecosystem restoration efforts. The CALFED Restoration Coordination Program staff will provide BDAC with regular updates on the Restoration Coordination Program and the Ecosystem Roundtable.

### ECOSYSTEM ROUNDTABLE —

The Ecosystem Roundtable, a subcommittee of BDAC, provides stakeholder input on:

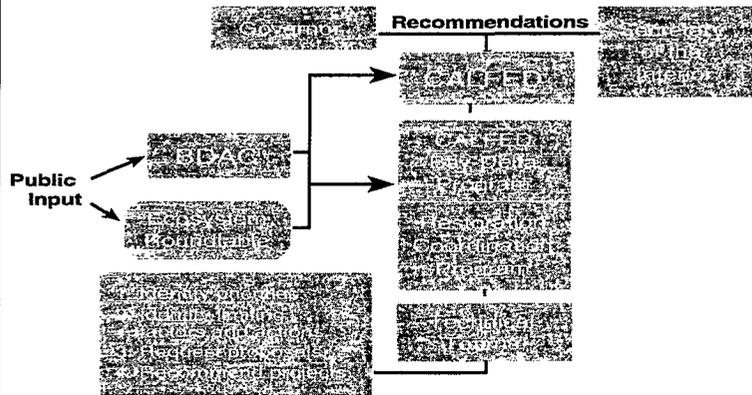
- coordination of CALFED ecosystem restoration projects and programs with related ecosystem restoration programs being implemented in the Bay-Delta system, and
- priorities for near-term ecosystem restoration and selection of Category III projects.

This process will be done in a manner that fosters cooperative planning and implementation with all agencies and stakeholders, that addresses high priority environmental needs, and that informs future restoration efforts.

### CALFED —

CALFED, which consists of 11 state and federal agencies, will select projects and programs for implementation. The Secretary for Resources and the Secretary of the Interior have final fiscal responsibility for State and Federal funds respectively. CALFED agencies are regularly updated on the progress of the Restoration Coordination Program and CALFED agency representatives attend the Ecosystem Roundtable meetings.

## Restoration Coordination Decision-Making



**Adaptive Management** is a process of testing alternative ways of meeting objectives and adapting future actions according to what is learned.

## **CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM RESTORATION COORDINATION PROGRAM —**

The Restoration Coordination Program staff are responsible for the management of the Category III planning process and coordination efforts with other ecosystem programs. This includes seeking technical input from experts, preparing reports, and coordinating the project selection process.

## **RESTORATION TECHNICAL TEAMS —**

Technical teams consisting of agency, academic, and stakeholder specialists will provide input on what stressors are most affecting the priority species and habitats, and the types of restoration actions needed to address these stressors to alleviate their impacts. The teams will be organized by geographic area such as the San Joaquin River and tributaries, Sacramento River and tributaries, Delta/Suisun Bay, American River, and North Bay. Additional issue based teams, such as water quality, may be needed. An umbrella technical team will provide input to program staff regarding integration between the geographic and issue based technical teams.

## **Project Selection Process**

The Restoration Coordination Program will use the following four step planning and project selection process. Each step of this process will be reviewed and updated as needed. Projects will be selected and funded on a semi-annual basis.

The Ecosystem Roundtable will be providing advice during each step of the process. CALFED agencies will approve final work-products taking into account the advice of the Ecosystem Roundtable and the Bay-Delta Advisory Council.

### **STEP 1: IDENTIFY NEAR-TERM PRIORITIES**

The Restoration Coordination Program staff, assisted by the Restoration technical teams, will prepare an implementation strategy which will identify proposed near-term priorities. The strategy will provide guidance on which species, habitat types, and ecosystem processes should be included in the next funding cycle and how they should be prioritized. The strategy will look toward the restoration strategy detailed in the ERPP and will focus on those species and habitats of greatest urgency and the actions providing the greatest early benefits considering available funding.

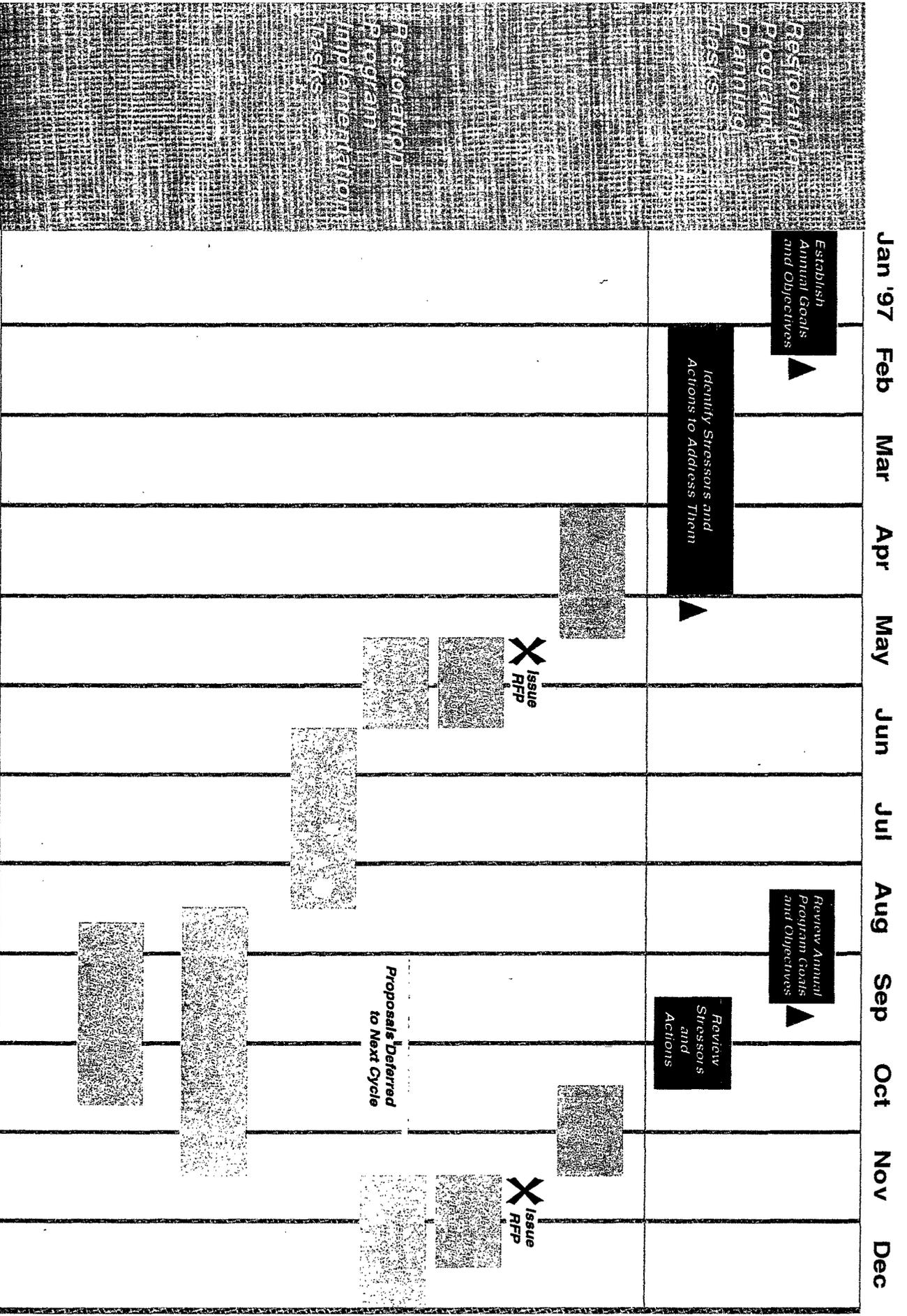
The initial priorities for allocating ecosystem restoration funds in 1997 have been identified as: (1) actions to assist in the recovery of aquatic species that are listed as threatened or endangered, of special concern, or desirable and in *greatest need*, and (2) actions to assist in the restoration of habitat types that have experienced the greatest decline, and which are important to the priority species.

### **STEP 2: IDENTIFY STRESSORS AND ACTIONS TO ADDRESS THEM**

The Restoration Coordination Program staff, assisted by the Restoration technical teams, will prepare a work plan based upon the near-term priorities identified in Step 1. The work plan will provide a summary of the:

- strategy, including proposed priorities for funding,
- stressors that need to be addressed to achieve those priorities, and

# Calfed Restoration Coordination Planning Process



Roundtable Recommendations
  CALFED Decision Point
  CALFED anticipates two funding cycles per year

- actions or types of actions that need to be undertaken to further define and address the stressors.

Semi-annual updates of the work plan will be prepared to respond to adaptive management considerations, additional priorities, changes in funding levels, and progress made in earlier years.

### STEP 3: PREPARE PACKAGE TO SOLICIT GRANT APPLICATIONS & DEVELOP EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Restoration Coordination Program staff, assisted by the Restoration Technical teams, will prepare a grant application package to solicit projects and programs consistent with the work plan.

Project and program proposals can come from a variety of sources including state and federal agencies, local governments, special districts, non-profit organizations, other organizations, and private individuals interested in ecosystem restoration. Criteria for selection of proposals will be prepared and applied to all grant applicants. The evaluation criteria will be used to guide selection of actions to address the priority species and habitats.

### STEP 4: RECOMMEND PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

The Restoration Coordination Program staff, working with technical review panels, will review and rank the proposals using the evaluation criteria. An overall draft list of recommended projects and programs will be forwarded to the Ecosystem Roundtable for its consideration. The list of recommended projects and programs, along with the advice from the Ecosystem Roundtable will be forwarded to BDAC for its consideration. BDAC will relay its advice to the CALFED agencies who will make the final decision.

### RESTORATION RESERVE

As demonstrated by the January 1997 floods, new opportunities and challenges in ecosystem restoration can develop quickly. To provide funding flexibility to take advantage of unforeseen opportunities which occur out-of-phase with the normal project selection process, the Restoration Coordination Program will maintain a restoration reserve fund. These funds shall be for projects which are related to an emergency, unique opportunity, or can leverage matching monies which are time sensitive.

When the restoration reserve fund is used, the program will identify the rationale for providing funding outside the normal project selection process. Any projects funded through the restoration reserve will receive public review through the Ecosystem Roundtable and BDAC.

### CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is an historic, consensus-based environmental planning effort bringing together interested Californians and the state and federal governments to resolve environmental and water management problems associated with the Bay-Delta system.

The Bay-Delta is both a tremendous ecological resource (home to more than 120 fish and wildlife species) and California's primary water hub with more than 22 million people and over 4 million acres of the world's most productive farmland all dependent upon reliable and sufficient water supplies from the Delta.

The CALFED program is staffed by a consortium of technical experts assigned from multiple state and federal agencies.

# Coordination of Restoration Programs

The Restoration Coordination Program will seek to maximize the cost sharing opportunities between CALFED/Category III and other ecosystem restoration funding sources. For instance, Restoration Coordination Program staff have identified many CVPIA restoration activities that are closely aligned with those of CALFED. They have been working with CVPIA staff on a variety of tools that can be used to better coordinate these two large restoration efforts. Some of the concepts being investigated include joint development of priorities and joint solicitation and review of projects to address these priorities. Staff are also working with other programs such as the Four Pumps Program administered by the California Departments of Water Resources and Fish and Game (DFG) and the Tracy Fish Agreement program administered by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and DFG. Coordinating various restoration programs in the Bay-Delta ecosystem will maximize the effectiveness of available funding and will jumpstart ecosystem recovery.

**Calfed Bay-Delta Program**

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**CALFED Agencies:**

CA Resources Agency

CA Dept. of Fish and Game

CA Dept. of Water Resources

CA Environmental Protection Agency

State Water Resources Control Board

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

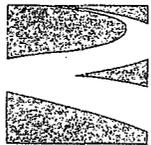
U.S. Dept. of the Interior

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

U.S. Dept. of Commerce

National Marine Fisheries Service



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