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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUBLIC MEETING ADDRESSES WATER ISSUES

SACRAMENTO -- The CALFED Bay-Delta Program will hold an open house public meeting in San Francisco Thursday, November 6, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Commonwealth Club, 595 Market St. Area residents are encouraged to come and learn about efforts to improve the ecosystem and water management of the Bay-Delta system, as well as the specific implications of these efforts for those in the Bay area.

“The Bay area receives 100 percent of its water from the Bay-Delta system,” said Lester Snow, executive director of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. “The decisions being made over the coming months will impact these communities. It is important they participate in the process.”

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program will soon release a draft programmatic Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement identifying a potential solution to problems associated with the Bay-Delta system. Public input is critical to the development of an equitable and feasible solution.

The informational meetings will feature an open-house session from 5:30 to 7 p.m. during which Program staff will be available to answer questions and provide information to those in

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
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

attendance. A presentation will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m., giving a general overview and update of the Program's progress as well as an opportunity for the public to comment on issues they think are important.

A series of formal public hearings will also be held upon release of the draft programmatic Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement. The schedule for those meetings will be announced later this year.

The Bay-Delta system, an intricate web of waterways created at the junction of the San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, is a critically important part of California's natural environment and economy. It supplies drinking water for more than 22 million Californians, irrigation water for more than four million acres of the world's most productive farmland, and supports 120 fish and wildlife species; some found nowhere else on the planet.

For the past several decades, the Bay-Delta system has struggled to meet the competing demands of the environment and water users, while maintaining good water quality and a levee system that protects local towns and infrastructure from flooding. Today the system is not adequately meeting any of these needs.

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program was initiated in 1995 by Governor Pete Wilson and the Clinton Administration to address the environmental and water management issues associated with the Bay-Delta system.

CALFED is made up of technical experts from various state and federal agencies, and given direction by the policy leadership of those agencies, as well as a federally chartered public advisory committee. In addition, interested constituencies and the general public have participated in numerous technical and public workshops since the Program got underway in early 1995.

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The lead agencies participating in CALFED include: California Resources Agency, California Department of Water Resources, California Department of Fish and Game, California Environmental Protection Agency, California State Water Resources Control Board, U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

For further information about the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, please call (916) 657-2666 or visit its website, <http://calfed.ca.gov>.

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The attached news release was distributed on October 20, 1997, to the following media in the San Francisco Bay area:

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Alameda Journal
Alameda Times Star
Argus-Courier
Beacon Gazette
Benicia Herald
Bodega Bay Navigator
Boonville Anderson Valley Advertiser
Campbell Express-Cambrian News
Carmel Valley Sun
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Cloverdale Reveille
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Half Moon Bay Review
Healdsburg Tribune
Holister Free Lance
Independent Coast Observer
Jewish Bulletin of Northern California
La Oferta Review
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Martinez News-Gazette
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Morgan Hill Times/San Martin News
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Napa Sentinel
North Monterey County Fortnighter

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