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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 the Chico area Tuesday, December 9, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Durham Memorial Hall at Faber and Midway in Durham. 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 Northern California.

"The northern third of the state is the source of nearly 80 percent of water to the Delta," said Lester Snow, executive director of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. "Northerners have an important stake in that water, requiring plentiful groundwater and adequate river flows to support their homes, farms, and industries."

"The Los Angeles area receives most of its water from the State Water Project, of which the Bay-Delta system is the hub," said Lester Snow, executive director of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. "Decisions being made over the coming months about water supply and water quality will impact local communities."

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program will soon release a draft programmatic Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement identifying a potential solution to problems associated

**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

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 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

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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.

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 November 24, 1997, to the following media in Northern California:

Print

Chico Enterprise Record  
Chico News & Review  
Clear Lake Observer-American  
Corning Observer  
Crescent City Del Norte Triplicate  
Downieville Mountain Messenger  
Dunsmuir News  
Feather River Bulletin  
Lake County Record Bee  
Lassen County News  
Mercury-Register  
Modoc County Record  
Orland Pree-Register  
Paradise Post  
Pioneer Press  
Rabbit Creek Journal  
Record Searchlight  
Red Bluff Daily News  
Shasta Lake Bulletin  
Sierra Booster  
Siskiyou Daily News  
The Humbolt Beacon  
The Intermountain News  
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