



# CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM

## Facts About ... Water Use Efficiency

**T**he CALFED Bay-Delta Program is a cooperative effort among state and federal agencies and the public to ensure a healthy ecosystem, reliable water supplies, good quality water, and stable levees in California's Bay-Delta system and its tributaries. These four priorities define the CALFED Bay-Delta Common Programs.

### The Problem

The California Bay-Delta system supplies water for drinking, agricultural, industrial, environmental and recreational uses. As overall water use has increased over the past several decades, so has competition among the different water uses. In addition, water flow and timing requirements established to protect certain fish and wildlife species that depend on freshwater flows have at times impacted the Delta's ability to meet water supply demands. As a result, the question of water availability has created economic uncertainty in water service areas and conflict over available supplies.

### The Goal

To reduce the mismatch between Bay-Delta system water supplies and current and future beneficial uses of water dependent on the Bay-Delta system.

### Ways This Can Be Accomplished

The CALFED Bay-Delta Water Use Efficiency Program takes two approaches. First, it maximizes the efficiency of use of water diverted from the entire Bay-Delta system. Second, it seeks to reclaim water after use. Urban water users will be encouraged to make greater use of generally accepted standards for urban water conservation (Best Management Practices) while at the same time moving ahead with recycling wastewater. Agricultural users will be encouraged and helped to analyze and implement "Efficient Water Management Practices" -- negotiated standards for agricultural conservation. Phase I of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program identified several potential implementation measures to improve water conservation and thus stretch water supplies. Examples include:

- Encouraging urban and industrial water suppliers and users to implement the current "Best Management Practices" for urban conservation.

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- Implementing urban water reclamation programs whereby water suppliers recycle water to recharge groundwater basins, supplement irrigation supplies, or store water to reduce demands on the Delta.
- Helping agricultural water suppliers and users to analyze and implement cost-effective measures for conserving agricultural water.

## Things To Consider

Water use efficiency measures serve several purposes. North of the Bay-Delta system, they can make water available for other uses and can also provide opportunities to divert water from the system when fish will be least affected. South of the Delta, in regions that rely on exported water, water use efficiency can make water available for other uses within the export areas, reduce shortages during drought, and decrease diversions at times to increase Delta outflow.

No matter what the end result, Californians have intense feelings about water use efficiency. While they strongly believe in its importance, they have serious concerns about how it will be implemented. As a result, the Water Use Efficiency Common Program will work closely on implementation with local agencies, allowing them to make appropriate water management decisions that reflect local conditions.

## What You've Told Us

Through public meetings and comment, Californians have told the CALFED Bay-Delta Program several important things about the Water Use Efficiency Common Program, including:

- A strong water use efficiency program must be included in the Bay-Delta solution.
- The WUE (Water Use Efficiency) Program should emphasize incentive-based programs over regulating actions.
- The WUE Program must preserve local flexibility.
- CALFED must offer more help in the planning, financing and implementation of the local water management programs.

## Want To Know More?

For further information on how you can participate in the effort to restore the environment and water management of the California Bay-Delta system, contact: CALFED, 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155, Sacramento, CA 95814 ph: (916) 657-2666 Fax: (916) 654-9780 Public Information Line 1-800-700-5752, Website: <http://calfed.ca.gov>

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