



# CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM

## Glossary of Terms

**AF**

Abbreviation for acre feet; the volume of water that would cover one acre to a depth of one foot, or 325,851 gallons of water. On average, could supply 1-2 households with water for a year.

**Alternative**

A collection of actions or action categories assembled to provide a comprehensive solution to problems in the Bay-Delta system.

**Action**

A structure, operating criteria, program, regulation, policy, or restoration activity that is intended to address a problem or resolve a conflict in the Bay-Delta system.

**Action Category**

A set of similar actions. For example, all new or expanded off-stream storage might be placed into a single action category.

**Anadromous Fish**

Fish that spend a part of their life cycle in the sea and return to freshwater streams to spawn.

**Best Management Practices  
(BMP)**

An urban water conservation measure that the California Urban Water Conservation Council agrees to implement among member agencies.

**Central Valley Project  
(CVP)**

Federally operated water management and conveyance system that provides water agricultural, urban, and industrial users in California.

**CFS**

An abbreviation for cubic feet per second.

**Conveyance**

A pipeline, canal, natural channel or other similar facility that transports water from one location to another.

## **Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA)**

This federal legislation, signed into law on October 30, 1992, mandates major changes in the management of the federal Central Valley Project. The CVPIA puts fish and wildlife on an equal footing with agricultural, municipal, industrial, and hydropower users.

## **Common Delta Pool**

The common pool concept suggest that the Delta provides a common resource, including fresh water supply for all Delta water users, and all those whose actions have an impact on the Delta environment share in the obligation to restore, maintain, and protect Delta resources, including water supplies, water quality, and natural habitat.

## **Conjunctive Use**

Integrated management of surface water and groundwater supplies to meet overall water supply and resource management objectives.

## **Delta Islands**

Islands in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta protected by levees. Delta Islands provide space for numbers functions including agriculture, communities, and important infrastructure such as power plants, transmission lines, pipelines, and roadways.

## **Diversions**

The action of taking water out of a river system or changing the flow of water in a system for use in another location.

## **Ecosystem**

A recognizable, relatively homogeneous unit that includes organisms, their environment, and all the interactions among them.

## **Endangered Species Act (ESA)**

Federal legislation that provides protection for species that are in danger of extinction.

## **Exotic Species**

Also called introduced species; refers to plants and animals that originate elsewhere and migrate or are brought into a new area, where they may dominate the local species or in some way negatively impact the environment for native species.

## **Fish Screens**

Physical structures placed at water diversion facilities to keep fish from getting pulled into the facility and dying there.

## **Groundwater Banking**

Using available storage capacity within ground water basins to store surface water that is recharged during periods when it is

**Isolated Conveyance Facility**

available (e.g. during peak flood flows).

A canal or pipeline that transports water between two different locations while keeping it separate from Delta water.

**MAF  
Meander Belt**

An abbreviation for million acre feet.

Protecting and preserving land in the vicinity of a river channel in order to allow the river to meander. Meander belts are a way to allow the development of natural habitat around a river.

**Real-Time Monitoring**

Continuous observation in multiple locations of biological conditions on site in order to adjust water management operations to protect fish species and allow optimal operation of the water supply system.

**Riparian**

The strip of land adjacent to a natural water course such as a river or stream. Often supports vegetation that provides the best fish habitat values when growing large enough to overhand the bank.

**Riverine  
Setback Levee**

Habitat within or alongside a river or channel.

A constructed embankment to prevent flooding that is positioned some distance from the edge of the river or channel. Setback levees allow wildlife habitat to develop between the levee and the river or stream.

**Shallow Water**

Water with little enough depth to allow for sunlight penetration, plant growth, and the development of small organisms that function as fish food. Serves as spawning areas for Delta smelt.

**Solution Principles**

Fundamental principles that guide the development and evaluation of Program Alternative. They provide an overall measure of acceptability of the alternatives.

**State Water Project (SWP)**

A state operated water management and conveyance system that provides water to agricultural, urban, and industrial users in California.

**TAF**

An abbreviation for thousand acre feet.

**Terrestrial**

Types of species of animal and plant wildlife that live on or grow from the land.

**Water Conservation**

Practices that encourage consumers to reduce the use of water. The extent to which these practices actually create a saving in water depends on the total or basin-wide use of water.

**Water Reclamation**

Practices that capture, treat and reuse water. The waste water is treated to meet health and safety standards depending on its intended use.

**Water Transfers**

Voluntary water transactions conducted under state law and in keeping with federal regulations. The agency most involved is the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

**Watershed**

An area that drains ultimately to a particular channel or river, usually bounded peripherally by a natural divide of some kind such as a hill, ridge, or mountain.

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