



First in a Series ...

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The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is in the process of drafting an Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan (ERPP) as part of a comprehensive solution to the environmental and water management problems associated with the Bay-Delta system. This plan will be released for public review in early 1998 along with plans for water quality, water supply reliability and levee system integrity, the four components that make up the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. This newsletter is intended to help the public be involved in the CALFED planning process.

A New Approach to Restoration

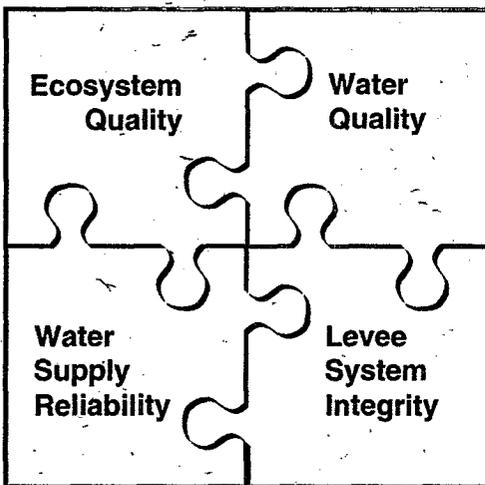
Without ecosystem restoration, plant and animal populations will continue to be at risk, and the ability of the Bay-Delta system to be a reliable water supply or continue to serve other uses such as recreation, wildlife viewing, sport and commercial fishing and hunting could be diminished. However, ecosystem restoration alone will not solve all the problems of the Bay-Delta system. Ecosystem restoration must be pursued in conjunction with efforts to improve water quality, improve water supply reliability and maintain the system of levees

in the Delta system. With this aim in mind, CALFED is developing an Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan (ERPP), a long-term management strategy to rehabilitate the Bay-Delta system, and a Restoration Coordination Program, which is identifying and prioritizing restoration projects suitable for early implementation. CALFED's ecosystem restoration approach is novel in that it focuses on restoring natural ecological processes and functions rather than addressing problems on a species by species basis. The ERPP's eventual implementation will be a joint effort between local land management bodies and the state and federal government.

"The work done to date on the ERPP has been on a very broad scale," said Lester Snow, executive director of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. "I think we have not involved local entities enough in this process, but now that we are getting down to the specifics of the plan, it is critical that we work hand-in-hand with those at the local level."

What's Happened So Far?

Stakeholder input to date has helped CALFED staff develop the program's objectives and a vision for restoring the Bay-Delta system, but not the specific actions to carry out this vision. Many people have only recently become aware of this draft plan, and CALFED is working with these stakeholders to incorporate their comments into the planning process. The draft Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan (available by calling CALFED at 916-657-2666) contains hundreds of potential actions - some proposed for implementation and some requiring additional research - all of which require input from local government agencies, land owners, conservation districts and others on the local level.



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For more information ■ (916) 657-2666 ■ (916) 654-9780 FAX ■ 1-800-700-5752 Information Line ■ <http://calfed.ca.gov>

Can I Make Comments Now?

Yes. The ERPP is a work in progress. Copies of the draft ERPP are available for public review and comment by calling CALFED at (916) 657-2666. In early 1998, the draft Programmatic EIR/EIS, which will contain the ERPP, will be released for broad public review. This document will contain more detailed information about the proposed program as well as the anticipated impacts. CALFED is currently incorporating public comments and technical input received to date and will continue to solicit public input through mid-1998.

Experts Weigh In

Recently, a panel of scientific experts from throughout the country gathered for a four-day workshop in Sacramento to review CALFED's ERPP. The panelists – whose specialties included aquatic biology, fisheries, hydrology, conservation biology and botany – made recommendations to CALFED staff, including to provide conceptual models to help the public better understand the plan and to convene a standing independent scientific

body to monitor the plan's development. To obtain a copy of the Panel's report, call CALFED at (916) 657-2666 or visit its website at <http://calfed.ca.gov>.

How to Get Involved

There are several upcoming public meetings that will address the ERPP among other Program elements. For complete meeting information, call (800) 700-5752 or check the CALFED website, <http://calfed.ca.gov>. A partial list follows:

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| 11/25 | Yolo County Board of Supervisors
Davis City Council Chambers
23 Russell Blvd., Davis, 7 to 9 p.m. |
| 12/9 | CALFED Public Meeting/Chico
Durham Memorial Hall, Faber & Midway in
Durham, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. |
| 12/12 | Bay-Delta Advisory Council
Radisson Hotel, Sacramento
500 Leisure Ln., 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. |



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BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM

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