



Local Partnerships Will Make It Happen

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program's draft Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan is one of the most ambitious environmental rehabilitation efforts in United States history. And that has some people worried. "You can't talk about a government program without people being concerned about loss of local control," said Lester Snow, executive director of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. "One of our challenges is to illustrate just how we intend to make this plan a true partnership with local community entities."

One example of the approach proposed by CALFED's draft Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan is the recently completed Yolo Bypass Project at the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area just west of Sacramento. At its dedication ceremony last month, President Bill Clinton praised the joint efforts of state and federal governments and local conservation groups to get the project implemented.

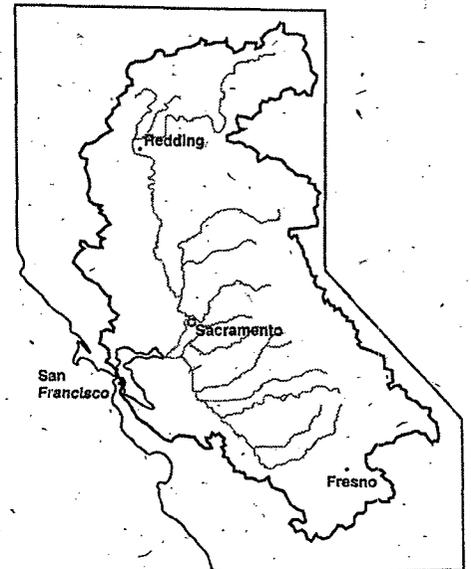
CALFED will soon have an opportunity to put these kinds of partnerships into action through its Restoration Coordination Program. As part of the 1994 Bay-Delta Accord, a commitment was made for implementation of certain ecosystem restoration projects prior to the completion of the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan. Funding for these efforts comes from several sources. The passage of Proposition 204 in 1996 provided more than \$450 million in state money for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program's environmental enhancement efforts. Federal authorization for an additional \$430 million over the next three-year period has also been secured, \$60 million of which is available now and \$390 million once the ERPP is completed. Projects are selected through a competitive grant process,

with the first round of funding announced in December 1997. Although it is still operating at a very broad - or programmatic - level, CALFED is looking for input from local agencies, conservation districts, landowner groups, flood control districts, watershed groups and others involved at the local and regional level in water management and environmental restoration. In addition to the early implementation projects, the CALFED Bay-Delta Program consensus solution, once developed, will contain actions and potential actions that will undergo individual, site-specific environmental analysis before implementation. At that time, specific partnership arrangements will be developed and formalized for other parts of the program.

Flexibility Forms Foundation for Long-Term Success

Ask anyone who's ever set out on a long journey about the importance of a flexible travel plan. Bad directions or mechanical trouble can throw a wrench in the most carefully planned itinerary. Or, good weather in the middle of the rainy season could mean you get to your destination sooner than expected.

Either way, it's important to have the ability



Adaptive management will help CALFED's ERPP deal with the scope and complexity of the solution area

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to make adjustments to your plan as new information and new conditions present themselves. If a scientist were at the wheel, this process would be called adaptive management. It's the foundation for CALFED's draft Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan. "The scope of the ecosystem program is unprecedented in its size and complexity," said Dick Daniel, who is leading the preparation of the ERPP. "We need to build in mechanisms for continually incorporating new and better data as we proceed with preparing and implementing the plan." Daniel also pointed out that all aspects of the ERPP from its initial development and refinement through implementation and adaptive management will include the best available science and an ongoing program of scientific review. Adaptive management was developed in the 1970s by scientists at the University of British Columbia and has been used increasingly as a tool for developing long-term resource management plans. In addition to CALFED, current projects in the Grand Canyon, Florida Everglades and the Chesapeake Bay rely on

this approach. Equally important as flexibility, however, according to Daniel is the ability to retain adequate assurances. The end goal of rehabilitating the ecosystem without imposing significant redirected impacts to other users of the Bay-Delta system remains constant even if the strategies evolve. "Like the traveler at the wheel, success is attained if in the end we get to where we were going."

What Happens to Comments?

Many people have already commented on the draft ERPP. Now what? CALFED staff tasked with ecosystem restoration evaluate each comment and either incorporate it into future CALFED documents or follow up with individual or small group meetings to further discuss issues raised. This is an on-going process, and comments will continue to be solicited on the draft ERPP through the end of 1998, when it is expected that the CALFED EIR/EIS will be certified. To make a comment on the draft ERPP, or for more information, contact the CALFED Bay-Delta Program at 1-800-700-5752.



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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.

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