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Delta hearings planned

Public hearings are set for Wednesday in Walnut Grove and May 27 in Stockton on federal and state efforts to revive the Delta and improve California's overall water supplies.

In March, after three years of study, a coalition of state and federal agencies known as the CALFED Bay-Delta Program released an environmental assessment of three draft alternatives. One would be an around-the-Delta channel similar to the Peripheral Canal defeated by the state's voters in 1982.

CALFED is also proposing the retirement of 100,000 acres or more of Delta farmland, which would be converted into a variety of wetlands and other habitats.

Of 17 public hearings statewide, one will be held Wednesday at Walnut Grove's Jean Harvie Center, 14273 River Road. Another will be May 27 at the University of California Cooperative Extension office, 420 S. Wilson Way, Stockton.

Informal question-and-answer sessions will be held from 6 to 7 p.m., with the formal hearings starting at 7 p.m.

To obtain a copy of the draft environmental assessment, call (800) 900-3587.