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**Public hearing set for
Delta water solutions**

The CalFed Bay-Delta Program will hold a public hearing Thursday to discuss suggested environmental and water management solutions for the Bay-Delta system.

The joint federal-state agency, initiated by Gov. Pete Wilson in 1995, is hosting hearings throughout Northern California.

A later hearing will be held May 18 in San Jose.

An informal question and answer period begins at 6 p.m.

The formal hearing starts in Oakland at 7 p.m.

Three plans are being considered for the intricate web of waterways created at the junction of the San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and the watershed that feeds them.

The Livermore-Amador valleys get more than 90 percent of their drinking water from the Delta.

The Zone 7 Water Agency purchases water delivered to the region through the South Bay Aqueduct.

The Bay-Delta supplies drinking water for more than 22 million Californians and irrigation water for more than 4 million acres of the world's most productive farmland.

It also supports 750 fish and wildlife species.

The three alternatives call for adding storage, improving channels or building new channels and would cost from \$9 billion to \$10.5 billion over a 25- to 30-year period.

The hearing will be held at the Oakland Masonic Center, 3903 Broadway.

Written comments can be sent to the CalFed Bay-Delta Program, 1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155, Sacramento, CA 95814.

For additional information, visit the CalFed Web site at <http://calfed.ca.gov> or call 800-900-3587.