



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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July 8, 1998

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THOUSANDS COMMENT ON CALFED ALTERNATIVES
Public Comment Period Closed July 1

Several thousand Californians offered their opinions on proposed solutions to environmental and water management conflicts in the Bay-Delta system during public review of the draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) released by the CALFED Bay-Delta Program last March. The public comment period closed July 1.

A preliminary tally of the responses includes over 1,500 letters from private citizens, businesses and public agencies; 4,000-5,000 form letters and postcards; and over 400 spoken comments delivered at 17 public hearings. CALFED Program staff estimate that this amounts to approximately 20,000 individual comments on Program elements. Each comment will be catalogued and responded to in the revised draft Programmatic EIS/EIR that will be released in December.

Preliminary review identifies several top areas of public concern: water conservation; new water storage and conveyance facilities, which receive mixed levels of support in various

CALFED Agencies

<p>California</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Resources Agency Department of Fish and Game Department of Water Resources California Environmental Protection Agency State Water Resources Control Board 	<p>Federal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Protection Agency Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service Bureau of Reclamation U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Department of Commerce National Marine Fisheries Service
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areas of California; agricultural issues, including land conversion; protection of area of origin and general water rights; and finance, with concerns about loss of tax base revenue and who will pay and how much.

The revised draft will describe the preferred alternative and an implementation plan for Stage 1 of the Program. A public comment period will follow the release of the revised draft document, with public hearings to be held statewide early next year. Final state and federal approval of a Program decision is expected in late 1999.

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