



**Message Points and Q&A
for CALFED Agency Representatives Answering Questions
about the Release of the First Draft Alternatives
February 13, 1996**

Messages:

- ◆ These alternatives result from considerable technical analysis as well as interaction with the public, including agricultural, environmental, and urban water users. The CALFED Bay-Delta program seeks consensus among the affected groups, a departure from the legislate/regulate/litigate loop in which the state's water debate has sometimes been caught.
- ◆ The purpose of this list of twenty alternatives is to capture the full range of reasonable solutions for Bay-Delta problems relating to ecosystem health, water supply, water quality, and system vulnerability. We have limited the level of detail in the alternatives to focus attention of their broad outlines.
- ◆ These alternatives are not final products; they are subject to change based upon input from stakeholders and the general public. For example, public comment and further technical analysis may suggest different combinations of actions within alternatives. The release of these alternatives is just one step on the long road to a solution.
- ◆ Given the diversity of the list, everyone will probably find some alternatives to like and some to dislike. We encourage thoughtful criticism of the alternatives. One can dislike one or more alternatives but still believe that the list accurately represents the range of reasonable solutions.

- more -

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

Questions and Answers:

◆ **Do the alternatives include past proposals such as the Peripheral Canal?**

Among the wide range of alternatives, some propose constructing conveyance facilities and some do not. But none proposes the old Peripheral Canal, a project that after fourteen years is obsolete. Because balance is a fundamental principle of the program, all of the alternatives address all of the problem areas: water supply, ecosystem health, water quality, and system vulnerability. We reject the notion that one operational change or one new facility could solve the myriad interlocking problems of the Bay-Delta system.

◆ **Does your agency support all of these alternatives?**

At this point in the program, our agency has not taken a stand for or against any of the alternatives, nor have we attempted to rank them in order of preference. Our current task -- the task of everyone in government and the public who is involved in this project -- is to decide whether this list captures the range of reasonable solutions. The alternatives will change substantially as we receive public input, and the list will be consolidated.

◆ **Why don't any of the alternatives include (insert idea or project)?**

(optional: Not being an expert on the alternatives, I cannot say for sure that none does include that item.) The alternatives are works-in-progress, not meant to be perfect. By releasing them now, we hope to elicit public input about what might be missing. I encourage you to get involved in the public analysis of these alternatives by attending the public workshop on Monday, February 26th, at the Beverly Garland Hotel, 1780 Tribute Rd., in Sacramento. Call 916/657-2666 for information.

◆ **What will happen if one of the stakeholder groups loses faith in the process based on this list of alternatives?**

So far cooperation among stakeholders has been excellent. People on all sides of the issue seem to realize that no one benefited from the old stalemate. CALFED is dedicated to maintaining public trust by operating openly and honestly, with all sides represented every step of the way. If this list of alternatives succeeds in representing the full range of reasonable alternatives, then I would not expect the stakeholders to abandon the process on the basis of this list. Given the diversity of the list, it is unlikely that anyone will love all of the alternatives.