



## Memorandum

Date: June 6, 1997

To: Program Managers

From: Lester A. Snow

Subject: CALFED Decision-making process through November 1997

Under the CALFED Bay-Delta Program schedule, a public draft Programmatic EIR/EIS will be released in November 1997. In order to include a preferred alternative in the draft, the following process is established:

Summer 1997 - focus PCT, CALFED Management Team and CALFED Policy Group discussions on narrowing the alternatives and selecting a preferred alternative.

August 1997 - CALFED agencies select a preferred alternative to be included in the public draft Programmatic EIR/EIS.

September 1997 - Program staff circulates an administrative draft Programmatic EIR/EIS without a preferred alternative to the CALFED agencies for review and approval within 30 days. Simultaneously, Program staff releases a summary of the preferred alternative for discussion in focused, scheduled PCT, Management Team and Policy Group meetings.

November 1997 - CALFED agencies (through Program Team) release draft Programmatic EIR/EIS to the public.

November 1997 - November 1998 - CALFED agencies and Program Team conduct a series of public briefings, meetings and workshops to discuss the proposed long-term solution and to gather public comments on the draft EIR/EIS.

By the end of 1998 - CALFED agencies release final Programmatic EIR/EIS.

This proposed process addresses the tension between managing a difficult issue through policy and technical uncertainties and meeting the defined schedule. It allows an

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**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

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administrative draft to be prepared without having to wait for a decision on the preferred alternative. It also, hopefully, will focus agency comments on the form and substance of the environmental document, and not on the policy concerns associated with a preferred alternative.

CALFED agencies will be particularly concerned with how the preferred alternative is characterized. A separate paper/chapter accompanied by a series of briefings focusing specifically on the preferred alternative provides a separate forum for agencies to voice their concerns and opinions. This process is not intended to slow the release of the draft Programmatic EIR/EIS. If the agencies are unable to reach agreement on how to characterize the preferred alternative, a draft Programmatic EIR/EIS will be released which maximizes the decisions made and minimizes the number of issues to be resolved between draft and final.