

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

December 1998 Progress Report

Executive Summary

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program, a consortium of 15 State and Federal agencies with responsibilities or authority for natural resources in the Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta, is developing integrated solutions to four sets of interrelated resource management problems focused on the Delta. These four sets of problems relate to water quality protection, ecosystem health, water supply reliability, and levee system integrity.

This report is submitted to update the Legislature on CALFED activities and in response to Assembly Joint Resolution 30 (Resolution Chapter 100, Statutes of 1995). This report supplements earlier reports from the CALFED Bay-Delta Program:

- *Phase I Final Documentation Report*, September 1996
- *Phase II Interim Report*, March 1998
- *June 1998 Progress Report*

On December 18, 1998, CALFED agencies released the *Revised Phase II Report*, which describes the CALFED framework for resolving conflicts in the Bay-Delta system. The enclosed Executive Summary reviews the results of progress by CALFED toward achieving comprehensive and long-term solutions to the problems of the Delta. Copies of the full report were forwarded to all State legislators and to the California congressional delegation. The Report covers three main areas of information:

- background on CALFED, including the process, solution principles, objectives and fundamental concepts
- a framework for a preferred alternative which includes a summary of the eight Program elements and their interrelationships
- a draft implementation plan which includes proposed actions for the first seven years and a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation program to assure continuous improvement in water quality, ecosystem restoration, water supply reliability and levee system integrity.

Additionally, the Report includes several significant and innovative features. The CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program is the largest and most complex restoration program ever attempted in the United States. The integrated Water Management Strategy contains a broad range of water management tools to meet the Program's multiple objectives. A proposed Environmental Water Account concept provides the potential for greater flexibility in operating the State and Federal water projects to protect fisheries and provide more certainty for water users.