



## Memorandum

Date: March 11, 1999  
To: Conservation Strategy Policy Team  
From: Lester A. Snow  
Subject: Proposed Approach to Dealing with Storage Sites

Currently, the Conservation Strategy does not provide programmatic coverage for storage sites. It is important to the CALFED Program that storage be treated in the same manner as the other Program elements and not relegated to a different regulatory process for endangered species compliance. While take authorization will still require site-specific information and analysis, some type of programmatic discussion of storage should be included in the Strategy.

CALFED proposes that, to the extent feasible, the Draft Conservation Strategy should include the following programmatic level of coverage for the surface storage sites currently under consideration:

- A species list that incorporates species that are known to or may occur in the inundation zone and adjacent areas of the 15 surface storage sites currently under consideration by CALFED
- A list of habitats that are known to or may occur in the inundation zone and adjacent areas of the surface storage sites currently under consideration by CALFED
- A programmatic-level impact statement for the surface storage sites currently under consideration

In the event these items cannot be prepared in time for inclusion in the Draft Conservation Strategy, they should be prepared as soon as possible for inclusion in some form of supplemental document.

**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
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- Department of Agriculture
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Department of Commerce
- National Marine Fisheries Service

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Regarding service area impacts, CALFED is still awaiting an opportunity to review the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's paper describing the process for mitigating for impacts that Program may indirectly create in the service areas. This issue will certainly require additional discussion by the Policy Team and I hope that we can revisit it, based on the Service's draft, at our next meeting. I look forward to successful resolution of the geographic scope and service area issues in the near future.