

Attachment 1
Actions Recommended for the Lower San Joaquin River and South Delta Region

(Source: CALFED Bay Delta Program Revised Phase II Report, June 1999, Pages 81-83)

In the south Delta region-- CALFED recommends a comprehensive three barrier approach to resolving south Delta concerns at this time. The following list of actions reflects this comprehensive approach, in that it includes actions to improve ecosystem function, water quality, and water supply reliability. This recommendation is not a final determination; it simply provides guidance to CALFED agency staffs as they work together to conduct supporting technical studies, complete environmental documentation, and seek regulatory approval. A final decision to proceed with a specific mix of facilities, operational constraints, and other actions would be based on completed project-level environmental documentation, including the requisite EIR/EIS, Section 404 Alternatives Analysis, ESA consultation, CESA consultation, and all applicable permit approvals.

The specific elements included in the recommended approach are:

- Implement regional Ecosystem Restoration Program goals (specific actions for early implementation need to be identified).
- Consolidate and screen local agricultural diversions based on an appropriate priority and initiate a screen maintenance program.
- Develop a strategy to resolve regional water quality problems including actions to improve San Joaquin River dissolved oxygen conditions and San Joaquin River drainage as described in the CALFED Water Quality Program. Also evaluate, and if demonstrated to be feasible, release of accumulated salts during high flow periods. Evaluate the feasibility of recirculation of water pumped from the Delta by the CVP and SWP. If feasible, and consistent with CALFED ecosystem restoration goals and objectives, implement a pilot program.
- Implement the Vernalis Adaptive Management Plan. Include development of a long-term plan describing actions of the San Joaquin River Group Authority to improve water management practices.
- Construct a 500 cfs test facility at the Tracy Pumping Plant to develop best available fish screening and salvage technology for the intakes to the SWP and CVP export facilities.
- Construct a new screened intake for Clifton Court Forebay for the full export capacity of the SWP.
- Implement Joint Point of Diversion for the SWP and CVP.

- Evaluate and decide on whether to retain a separate CVP intake facility or to consolidate with the SWP facility. An intertie between Clifton Court Forebay and the Tracy Pumping Plant will be required if the export location is consolidated at Clifton Court and will be evaluated if exports continue at both locations. Also evaluate and potentially implement an intertie between the projects downstream of the export pumps.
- Obtain permits to use full SWP capacity of 10,300 cfs for operational flexibility, consistent with all applicable operational constraints, for water supply and -environmental benefits. Facilitate interim SWP export flexibility up to 8500 cfs, with appropriate constraints.
- Expedite construction of three permanent operable barriers at the Head of Old River, Old River at Tracy, and Middle River upstream from Victoria Canal. Phase out all temporary barrier installations as soon as feasible.
- Dredge segments of south Delta channels to limit scour velocities, for water supply for local agricultural intakes, and to improve navigation.
- Extend and screen agricultural intakes as required to assure local water supply availability.
- Form a Barrier Operations Coordination Team, consisting of USFWS, NMFS, DFG, DWR, USBR, and stakeholder representatives to operate the barriers.
- Monitor barrier effects on fish, stages, circulation, and water quality.
- Implement mitigation actions for direct and indirect project features and actions.
- Retain the potential future option of constructing a Grant Line Canal Barrier after the Barrier Operations Coordination Team operates and evaluates the three barriers included in the recommended alternative. Implementation of such an option would only be undertaken if the actions described above, including detailed field studies and analyses, fail to provide an appropriate balance of fisheries, water quality, and water supply availability benefits.
- In coordination with regional ERP actions, improve flood control through levee improvements, levee setbacks, chanrfel dredging, and flood plain restoration.