

SOUTH DELTA WATER AGENCY
SUGGESTED CHANGES TO FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

The South Delta Water Agency believes the following are necessary changes to CALFED's Framework for Action:

Page 17 South Delta Actions Intro: "Any level of export pumping shall be contingent upon the existence of sufficient mitigation being provided to insure adequate water levels in the South Delta for local diversions."

Page 18 (2)(b) Add: "Tidal barrier operations must be available at all times of the year as may be necessary to insure adequate water levels in the South Delta for local diverters. If barrier operations cannot be provided due to impacts on fisheries, and other substitute mitigation is not available, then export levels must decrease to the point where water levels are sufficient. Diverters downstream of the barriers must be protected by adequate dredging and alterations to diversion facilities to mitigate impacts of export operations, at no cost or risk to local diverters. The permanent HOR barrier shall not be installed prior to the installation of the permanent tidal barriers. The permanent tidal barrier program should be implemented at the earliest possible time and before any increases in current export levels."

Add: "Screening of agricultural intakes in the Delta shall only be done pursuant to demonstrative need, only with screens developed jointly with local interests and determined to be both effective and compatible with reliable operation of diversion, and at no cost or risk to local diverters."

Page 5 Remove proposal for "user fee." After the projects fundamentally altered the Delta to the detriment of fish and wildlife and in-Delta users, it is patently unfair, and contrary to law, to assess those damaged users to help the perpetrators fund their mitigation.

Page 9 3rd bullet: Add: "These baseline regulatory levels, limits on reductions in exports, and measures taken to protect fish shall also apply to in-Delta and area of origin users and not result in insufficient water or quality for those users or additional burdens being placed upon them." The principle of No-Net Loss should not apply exclusively to exports.

Page 12 (1) Replace with: "No in-Delta storage". The SWRCB hearings confirmed the adverse impacts to fisheries, temperature, and quality resulting from the project. Wetlands consume more water than ag land. In addition, there were no potential buyers of the water. There is no assured technically effective and enforceable protection from seepage to adjacent islands. Interior Delta Storage is an initial step in a chain-of-lakes or other isolated facility.

The South Delta Water Agency strongly recommends the following changes to CALFED's Framework for Action:

Page 6 -- 5th bullet: Add: "Upstream purchases shall only be of water resulting from a decrease in consumptive use, or of water previously irretrievably lost" (same language as in CVPIA).

Page 7 -- After bullet add: "Habitat restoration shall first focus on lands currently owned or controlled by the State and Federal governments. Only after use of that land is maximized should conversion of agricultural lands be contemplated. No purchases of ag land for conversion without approval of local agencies." Wetlands consume more water than ag lands, and the program does not identify the source of the additional water.

Page 7 Watersheds Add: "CVP & SWP shall fully comply with the area of origin/watershed protection statutes."

Page 8 Water Supply Reliability. Add: "CVP and SWP shall fully comply with the Delta Protection Statutes."

First bullet: Add: "The projects will develop and implement within two years a plan to meet all existing water quality standards and objectives which their permits require them to meet."

Page 10 (See SEWD comments).

Page 10 Storage. The document should emphasize that the need for new yield from new storage may help somewhat but additional yield is necessary.

Page 14 (6) Add to the listed benefits from additional San Joaquin River storage: "... and to help restore flows for downstream riparians which have been diminished by upstream export of water that previously flowed to the Delta."

Page 19 (4) Replace with: "Relocation of Some Drainage. In certain limited places (e.g., Veale Tract and Byron Tract), local drainage may be relocated to decrease salinity at urban intakes. However, since Delta agriculture does not add any appreciable salt load, long-term efforts shall focus on the San Joaquin River salinity problem in order to decrease salts at urban intakes."

Add new (5): "The flow path and other features of the through-Delta conveyance of Sacramento River water to the export pumps will be modified to optimize the compatible benefits to all interests while facilitating compliance with the Delta Protection Act."

Page 23 Add: "Water use efficiency and conservation efforts shall not be done in a manner that decreases the amount of water available for downstream uses."

Page 27 Water Quality. The projects will develop and implement within two years a plan to meet all existing water quality standards and objectives which their permits require them to meet.

Page 33 Water Transfers Add the language suggested for page 6 above.

Appendix D Add: "No net loss and regulatory baselines shall apply to all in-Delta users."

Appendix I The SWRCB should not be part of a decision making process, that if challenged might be heard by that body.

Throughout: All actions should be developed and implemented with local expertise and participation, especially through-Delta conveyance.

The SDWA continues to believe that the Framework, the CALFED EIR, and the Preferred Alternative need substantive changes in order to adequately address both the existing impacts of the projects and California's future water needs. The May 24 recommendations by BDAC should be reviewed for adoption. Inclusion of some or all of the above listed recommended changes should not be construed as agreement with the approach or terms of the Framework.

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