

Proposed Clarification of CALFED Framework for Action

Water Use Efficiency and Conservation

The Framework Agreement references estimated water savings that are to be achieved during Stage 1. The agricultural estimate (260 to 350 TAF) does not fully take into consideration the cost to attain such water savings (cost estimates to meet specified Quantified Objectives have not yet been developed), the availability of funds (funding may not become available at the rate necessary to achieve such savings during Stage 1) or the degree to which specific CALFED objectives can reasonably be achieved through additional water conservation practices (the technical review necessary to better define this potential is ongoing and will not be completed prior to the Record of Decision and Notice of Determination (ROD/NOD)).

While achievement of the levels of "water savings" identified in the Framework is not specifically identified as a measure of success, such numbers are likely to achieve a significance much greater than the intended purpose of illustrating the broad magnitude of the potential savings. Therefore, to reduce the likelihood that the numbers in the document may take on a life of their own that may not be consistent with later, more specific goals and objectives of the program, the ROD/NOD should better reflect the uncertainties inherent in achieving such levels.

The following language clarifications are, therefore proposed:

Water Use Efficiency and Conservation

(Second paragraph, Framework document page 23)

Water use efficiency potential varies significantly in California, depending on the region of the state and the sector involved. Working with the stakeholder steering committees and other technical experts, CALFED has developed ranges of estimated water savings through actions that could be implemented during Stage 1. These estimates include only water that is currently unavailable for other uses because it is lost to excessive evaporation or drains to the ocean or some other unusable destination. In addition, approximately 225 to 310 TAF of water can be made available through water reclamation projects. These potential water savings would be generated as follows:

- 520 to 688 TAF in the urban sector
- 260 to 350 TAF in the agricultural sector
- 225 to 310 TAF in water reclamation projects

Water savings estimates for urban uses are greater because water conservation savings are more cost-effective (given the higher cost of most urban supplies). Agricultural conservation opportunities exist but are more limited by financial capability and by the fact that a higher percentage of agricultural return flows are used by downstream users and are therefore not included in conservation estimates. Estimates of potential agricultural conservation opportunities are currently being refined.

Proposed Clarification of CALFED Framework for Action (continued)

New bullet point under "Stage 1 actions of the Water Use Efficiency Program include:"

- The CALFED Agricultural Water Use Efficiency Program will complete by December 2000 a technical review and evaluation process designed to more precisely estimate the technical and financial feasibility for agricultural conservation actions to contribute to specific quantifiable CALFED objectives.