

CALFED Approach to Developing Preferred Alternative

I. Nature of Document

The Final Draft EIS/EIR will contain a preferred alternative that will define implementation stages with emphasis on a first stage which demonstrates improvements for all resource areas (ecosystem health, levee stability, water quality and water supply reliability).

The first stage of implementation shall:

- * Be defined as the period prior to final action on any major surface storage or new channel conveyance projects as may be contained in the CALFED draft preferred alternative (seven to 10 years);
- * Provide linkage between the various Program elements to ensure that conflicts are reduced and benefits are achieved for all interests;
- * Contain an aggressive mix of project implementation, demonstration projects, and planning activities in order to maintain steady progress on overall goals;
- * Identify performance targets and milestones to guide implementation of the Program.

The document will contain a list of actions and schedule for implementation such that all interests can assess the overall balance of the preferred alternative.

II. Assurances

The preferred alternative will include assurances that the CALFED Program will provide near-term stability and will make significant progress on ecosystem restoration and water supply reliability during each stage of implementation.

III. Provide Near-Term Stability

The state and federal agencies will collaborate with stakeholders to develop a package that will provide assurances after expiration of the 1994 Accord to provide similar stability and program continuity prior to a final Record of Decision on the long-term Program. The final draft EIS/EIR will include an assurance package that addresses need for regulatory stability during the first seven to 10 year stage of the program.

IV. Financing/Cost-Share Agreements

The Final Draft EIS/EIR will contain a financing package and cost-share arrangements to implement the preferred alternative.

V. Stakeholder Involvement

The preferred alternative will be developed through a collaborative process with all stakeholders to ensure that conflicts are reduced and benefits achieved for all interests. We challenge stakeholders from all interest to redouble their efforts to join together and work with our staffs to reach consensus on the long-term CALFED solution.

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