

DRAFT

SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL CALFED STAGE 1 PROGRAM Version 10, September 9, 1998

Ag/Urban Benefits

1. Water Supply. New water generated in Stage 1 above the Accord baseline should provide multiple benefits, including meeting specified environmental requirements and meeting water supply needs. Final allocation decisions should be determined based on yield information, specified environmental flow and operations requirements, and willingness to pay for the benefits received. The Environmental portion of new supplies should be used to meet AFRP actions and any other actions determined to be environmentally sound and having sufficient environmental documentation.
2. Accord Extension: Near Term Regulatory Certainty. Extend Accord until CALFED ROD. Then implement near term regulatory assurances for the duration of Stage 1. No net loss. No uncompensated taking. No actions resulting in added risk of loss through operating rules. Full regulatory protection will be provided for in-Delta and upstream diverters that participate in restoration actions consistent with CALFED goals and objectives for state and federal ESA regulations for proposed and listed aquatic species, safe harbor, and operational regulatory certainty, to reflect their habitat restoration actions and CALFED Stage 1 actions. SWRCB decisions tied to federal and state assurances. Resolve Accord/CVPIA flow differences: Create one single set of operating rules, with no outliers, including Trinity River.
3. Substages

Stage 1 should be implemented with projects from each program element bundled together in sub-stages. This will ensure that the balanced progress and linkages policy of CALFED is actually implemented. It will also reduce the number of EIS/EIR requirements. CALFED must immediately focus on the project level environmental documentation for the initial substage. Existing documentation should be used or modified in order to expedite this process.
4. Flexible Operations (Share the Gain). Expanded real-time monitoring for positive fish protection and flexibility for water suppliers. Pumps operate to full capacity at certain times, while exceeding fishery protection offered by Accord.
5. South Delta Improvements. Operable Old River Barrier and waterway stage control structures. Channel enlargement where necessary. Clifton Court Forebay intake structure. Joint Point of Diversion. Intertie of 400 cfs between Delta Mendota Canal and California Aqueduct. Fish screen demo (2500 cfs) at

Tracy. Tracy intertie. Potential for new screens at CCFB if different demo from Tracy or essential to Fish and Wildlife Agencies in Stage 1.

6. Ecosystem Restoration Program Actions.

a. Ecosystem Entity. Responsible for successful recovery of ESA species. Accountable for environmental water and money applied to effort.

b. Scientific Approach. The Ecosystem Entity should implement the ERP scientifically. Recovery and restoration actions should be prioritized and scheduled under carefully-crafted hypotheses, and then implemented so that their effects can be monitored and evaluated for efficacy, and the underlying hypotheses proved or disproved. Initial success will require focus and execution, rather than wall-to-wall coverage. Control and mass actions to achieve measurable results. Proceed under well-founded hypotheses, then monitor and evaluate both the action and the underlying hypotheses for validity. Be willing to change theory based on data.

c. Staging of ERP. We suggest Stage 1 actions that achieve 'early wins' against known stressors; that support VAMP; that generate statistically meaningful data to validate or modify Stage 1 hypotheses; and that concentrate masses of actions at a large enough scale to reconnect the ecology of an area, as well as create measurable change in habitat and population counts.

■ Sacramento Valley Ecosystem Restoration Actions. Emphasize actions that will resolve identified habitat stressors, such as fish passage problems and entrainment. Continued focus on voluntary screening of existing riverine diversions. Natural process replication actions should be further studied in Stage 1 and implemented gradually. Small scale pilot programs can serve as models for future projects involving land acquisition, the goal of which is to accomplish restoration actions compatible with economic activities, including farming, water district operations and flood control protection.

■ San Joaquin Basin Ecosystem Restoration Actions. Emphasize actions that will resolve identified habitat stressors, such as fish survival and entrainment. Support finalized planning and implementation of the South Delta Program which includes a permanent, operable barrier at the head of Old River, support the implementation of the San Joaquin River Agreement and financially support instream habitat restoration programs on the Merced, Tuolumne and Stanislaus Rivers. In addition, fish replication actions should be further studied in Stage 1 and as benefits are defined, implemented gradually. Pilot programs can serve as models for future projects involving land acquisition, water flows, habitat restoration, and flood control. The primary goal of which is to accomplish these actions in a cost-effective and efficient manner, which is compatible with economic

activities, including farming, water district operations and flood control protections.

- In-Delta Ecosystem Restoration Actions. To minimize impacts on agricultural lands, the ERP should first utilize publicly owned and idle lands, along with adjacent shallow water habitat that is already available. Private lands should only be acquired on a willing seller basis and where necessary to meet clear environmental objectives that cannot be met through using public lands. The goal is to accomplish environmental objectives in a manner which is compatible with economic activities, including farming, water district operations, and the integrity of the levee system.
7. Stage 1 Levee Funds. At levels proposed by CALFED. Substantial local control over funding priorities, construction schedules, and program administration.
 8. Mountain and Rural County Actions. Planning and feasibility work for long-range supplies, system efficiency improvements; design/construct initial facilities; and watershed management demonstration project. Opportunity to participate in north-of-Delta surface reservoir.
 9. Impact on Upstream Operations. Coordinate to the extent feasible with environmental flow requirements for the tributary streams to mutually benefit environmental resources in the Delta watershed. CALFED should not seek to exert authority over upstream tributaries for meeting environmental or water supply requirements in a manner which would have a detrimental effect on the owners and operators of the upstream facilities.
 10. Water Exchanges. Expedited CALFED process to allow exchanges under standard rules and regulatory fast-track.
 11. Water Transfers. Implement transfer program with water rights protections, community and third party protections, and consistent environmental rules. Local interests shall have the right to participate and reoperate projects to optimize transfers and entitlement deliveries. Environmental transfers use same rules as others. Facility rights-Ownership and capacities rights in facilities are to be recognized in accordance with state law.
 12. Implement BMPs and EWMPs. For Urban Water Conservation BMPs certification must be through a new entity that has a broad stakeholder base and the Agricultural Water Management Council should provide formal review of EWMPs. Evaluate actions on the basis of local utilities' cost effectiveness. CALFED should provide that either AB3616 or federal project conservation requirements are acceptable.

13. Investment Program for Recycling, Conservation, and Groundwater Recovery. Combined local-regional-state-federal funding for locally-sponsored projects: CALFED pays costs above locally-justified amounts. Regulatory improvements to aid recycling.
14. South and East of Delta — Groundwater Storage. Fund and construct groundwater conjunctive use facilities at selected sites east of the Delta and south of Delta in the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California. Est. 800,000 AF storage. CALFED shall be limited to an administrative role in these projects.
15. North of Delta — Groundwater Studies and Pilot Projects. Fund locally sponsored and implemented engineering studies, pilot projects, and/or demos to develop technical basis for groundwater opportunities north of the Delta. CALFED shall be limited to an administrative role in these projects.
16. Near-Term Drinking Water Quality. Identify specific actions to improve drinking water. In-Delta channel improvements to reduce tidal effects of ocean. Point and non-point source controls, drainage relocations and modifications in north and south Delta — all consistent with long-term source water quality goals of 50 ug/L bromides and 3 mg/L TOC. State and Regional Boards and DOHS must implement firm Pollution Reduction Goals for the Bay-Delta watershed to protect public health and ecosystem health.
17. Water Quality for Resource Management. Minimize TDS below 220 mg/L to enhance groundwater conjunctive use and water recycling in export areas.
18. Interim Alt. 2 Plan (Herbold/Gartrell). Perform feasibility studies to assess benefits and impacts. Based on studies, make a decision whether or not to permit and construct initial elements of facility extending from south to central Delta on an alignment which meets fisheries requirements, improves drinking water quality and public health of urban communities, and improves water quality for central and south Delta agricultural communities.
19. Mokelumne Multi-Purpose Plan. Channel and levee modifications in the Mokelumne forks and adjoining streams that provide flood control benefits equal to the North Delta Plan, and to create interim drinking water quality improvements and fishery recovery benefits.
20. Isolated Facility. Define a clear process for the decisions on construction of an Isolated Facility to be made by the end of Stage 1. During Stage 1, perform feasibility studies, project screening and efforts leading to 404(b)(1) analyses, EIS/R disclosure, biological mitigation, preferred alignment, community construction plans, and establish permit conditions. Work with local landowners to fit a potential future Isolated Facility into community plans so it is not precluded if needed. Clearly describe benefits and future information needed for

decision, and address three key areas: potential in-Delta water quality, levee stability and flood control effects; comparable benefits for other areas; and include assurances so that an isolated facility, if constructed, will not be misused.

21. Surface Storage. Surface storage provides benefits that groundwater storage can't provide. Capture of water in high-flow periods can have minimal environmental impacts on the delta and can produce large net benefits when stored water is available to meet other needs or is directly released to the environment in critical periods. Surface storage can also substantially improve the utility of groundwater basins, allowing water to be stored or "parked" in surface storage and later transferred to groundwater storage.

a. North of Delta Surface Storage, With Conveyance Works. Perform feasibility studies, project screening and efforts leading to 404(b)(1) analysis, EIS/R disclosure, preferred site, advance mitigation, community plans, and obtain construction and operating permits. Acquire land or rights to the land as required for the project. Work with local landowners to fit preferred site into community and environmental plans.

b. Adjacent to or South of Delta Surface Storage, including Conveyance Works. Perform feasibility studies, project screening and efforts leading to 404(b)(1) analysis, and EIS/R disclosure on one or more locations. Assess community interest in selecting preferred site and making mitigation plans.

22. Small Enlargement of Shasta. Accelerate decision leading to construction during Stage 1 of 6.5-foot height increase of existing Shasta Dam. Minimal adverse environmental effect. Project provides multipurpose benefits.

23. Programmatic 404 Decision

The CALFED ROD and Certification needs to make a finding that the combination of water supply and water management actions (recycling, conservation, transfers, groundwater, and surface water storage) are one package, and when considered as a package within the complete CALFED Stage 1 are the least environmentally damaging alternative under the 404(b)(1) requirements. This 404 programmatic finding for Stage 1 is essential to CALFED success.