

San Diego County Water Authority
CALFED Water Transfer Policy Principles
Revised, September 10, 1998

The San Diego County Water Authority Board of Directors hereby adopts the following policy principles for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program water transfer issues. Authority staff shall be guided by these principles in evaluating and advocating positions in the CALFED process relating to water transfers.

The CALFED Bay-Delta preferred alternative should feature water transfers as one element of an overall solution for the Bay-Delta. The preferred alternative should include a recommendation for an institutional framework that encourages and facilitates water transfers, affords appropriate protection or mitigation for impacts and provides fair, timely procedures for determining the cost and availability of conveyance capacity. Ideally, the preferred alternative should:

1. Provide operational criteria that encourage and facilitate transfers.
2. Provide the facilities and other physical improvements necessary to transfer water efficiently across the Delta.
3. Recognize that access to regional conveyance facilities for wheeling is equally important to access to Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) facilities. Without such access, agencies not directly connected to CVP or SWP facilities have only a limited ability -- or no ability -- to participate in transfers. Without this access, development of an efficient water transfer market is impossible.
4. Promote fair, timely procedures for determining cost and availability of conveyance capacity to move transfer water.
5. Encourage agencies that control conveyance facilities to set wheeling rates in accordance with state law and to not use wheeling rates as a way to discourage transfers, with consideration of appropriate appeals procedures left to a neutral decisionmaker.
6. Promote and encourage development of uniform, comprehensive rules regarding "one-stop shopping" for transfer approvals and permits.
7. Encourage transfers that result in no net harm to the Bay-Delta ecosystem and quality of water from Delta.
8. Encourage transfers as a way to meet environmental needs in the Bay-Delta system.

9. Encourage transfers that do not result in overdraft or degradation of groundwater basins.
10. Provide appropriate protection or mitigation for water-rights holders and third-party impacts within the district transferring water.
11. Promote district-to-district transfers.
12. Allow the transfer of water saved through districtwide and on-farm conservation measures.
13. Encourage quantification of water eligible for transfer in an equitable and expeditious manner.
14. Encourage an area seeking to obtain additional water through transfers to use its existing resources efficiently through adherence to and implementation of urban best management practices and agricultural efficient water management practices.
15. Encourage the creation of a Water Transfer Clearinghouse that focuses on the collection, assembly and dissemination of information on water transfers to interested parties, including potential buyers and sellers of transfer water. The Clearinghouse should not take on a regulatory, advisory, or advocacy role, but should serve as a neutral information resource.