

**San Diego County Water Authority  
Policy Principles Regarding the CALFED Bay-Delta  
Preferred Alternatives and Implementation Plan  
Revised September 10, 1998**

To ensure a safe, reliable water supply for San Diego County, the CALFED Bay Delta Program preferred alternative and implementation plan must satisfy the following basic policy principles:

**Water Supply Reliability**

- Provide regulatory certainty and predictability of Delta water supplies to help meet the short- and long-term water needs of California.
- In the near-term, ensure no reduction in State Project supplies below those available under the Bay-Delta Accord.
- Over the long-term, enhance State Project supplies to help meet southern California's future water needs.
- Increase water users' ability to divert water from the Delta during wet years and wet periods, when impacts on fish and the environment are low
- Provide additional storage to reduce resource conflicts in the Bay-Delta system and meet the water supply needs of water users and the environment.
- Facilitate water transfers by providing adequate operating flexibility and facility improvements to allow the efficient conveyance of transfer and exchange water.

**Water Quality**

- Reduce bromide and total organic carbon concentrations in State Project supplies to a level adequate to allow the Authority and its member agencies to protect public health and meet existing and future drinking water regulations using currently available, cost-effective technology.
- Reduce concentrations of other constituents that affect drinking water quality, including total dissolved solids and pathogens.

**Ecosystem Restoration**

- Contain a balanced, adaptively managed ecosystem restoration program that will enhance the ecological health of the Bay-Delta, taking into account all factors contributing to the degradation of the Bay-Delta habitat and animal species.

### **Water Use Efficiency**

- Include an element that encourages cost-effective water use efficiency measures such as urban and agricultural conservation, water recycling, groundwater development, and water transfers as part of a balanced solution to Bay-Delta problems. Control over implementation of these measures should remain at the local agency level. Urban conservation measures required in the solution alternative should be consistent with those identified in the current Best Management Practices (BMP) process.

### **Water Transfer Clearinghouse**

- 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.

### **Assurances**

- Provide improvements in all CALFED Program areas that are comparable over time and in magnitude.
- Ensure balanced progress toward all Program objectives by linking the implementation of Program elements. The linkages must be carefully structured to provide incentives to agencies that comply with or otherwise further CALFED's common programs and minimize the risk that agencies will be penalized due to the actions or inaction of others.
- Contain a clearly defined decision-making process, schedule and objective criteria that, if met, will trigger the implementation of potential future actions. To ensure potential actions can, if needed, be implemented in a timely manner, planning and permitting studies for those actions must progress during Stage 1 of the CALFED Program.
- Contain a comprehensive package of assurances that ensures that all of CALFED's objectives will be met and all components of a long-term Bay-Delta solution will be implemented.

### **Costs**

- Provide a cost-effective solution when compared with other water supply development options.
- Provide for an equitable allocation of costs to all those benefiting from improvements in the Bay-Delta system.