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Year 2000 and 2001 Priority Actions

Management, Relocation and/or Treatment of RD 800 Drain Discharge

1. General Description of the Action

Study feasibility and environmental impacts of eliminating or relocating RD 800 agricultural drainage away from the Delta intakes of urban water users and implement the preferred alternative. Share costs of study and relocation with DWR, and USBR.

The goal of this project is to determine the impacts of this agricultural discharge on the drinking water intakes of the SWP, CVP and CCWD, and, if impacts are determined to be significant, implement a program to manage, relocate and/or treat this drainage.

The RD 800 agricultural drain is located on the west side of Old River, south of the Highway 4 crossing in the south-western Delta. The drain receives agricultural drainage from surrounding agricultural land as well as treated wastewater from the Discovery Bay community. Under most hydrological conditions (except during very high flows from the San Joaquin River), most of this discharge could end up in the Clifton Court Forebay. The proposed monitoring program will focus on salinities, organic carbon, pesticides and, possibly, pathogens, all of which are parameters of concern for urban agencies diverting and exporting water from the south Delta.

2. Cost Estimates

Mobilization costs, staff costs, and laboratory costs to perform sampling and generate a conclusive summary of existing conditions and feasibility of treatment or relocation to alternative locations will cost approximately \$1.0 million, which is to be expended in FY 2000. The cost sharing for the approximately \$6 million relocation and/or treatment project with DWR and USBR will need to be decided.

CALFED staff would be involved in program development and analyzing the results of the study. This time would be approximately one month of staff time for FY 2000.

3. Program Administration and Governance

The CALFED Water Quality Program should oversee the scope of the project. DWR should oversee evaluation of existing conditions and alternative impacts. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation should be the federal contact authority if necessary.

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4. Program Coordination

DWR's Municipal Water Quality Investigation program takes monthly water quality grab samples at Clifton Court Forebay, CCWD's Los Vaqueros intake and other locations in the south Delta location. Contra Costa Water District also maintains an EC meter at the Los Vaqueros intake north of the RD 800 discharge and has been taking weekly and monthly grab samples for EC, chlorides, metals, pesticides, pathogens, and other constituents. DWR would be the CEQA lead agency for the preparation of the EIR.

As part of this project, a watershed management approach will be used to identify stakeholders, and develop a consensus-based solution for improving water quality.

5. Schedule

Detailed localized monitoring will be carried out near the RD 800 drain, and in the near and far field of discharge in FY 2000 to determine the quantities of contaminants and determine appropriate treatment and/or relocation options.