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FRIENDS OF THE RIVER

SHAPE THE FUTURE

AUG 2 6 1999

Help us guide CALFED's Bay-Delta Program

SIERRA CLUB FOUNDED 1892

This year, we have a chance to help choose a wiser course for California's most important natural resource — water. At stake is the largest estuary in the West, and all the streams that feed into it. Where San Francisco Bay blends with the state's two largest rivers, the Sacramento and the San Joaquin, we find a spectacular and diverse ecosystem, an intricate web of waterways that at one time represented a safe haven for plants and wildlife.

This is the *Bay-Delta*. It is the focus of a state and federal restoration effort known as CALFED. Officials are seeking public comment on the planning effort and are holding a series of hearings around the state during August and September. Your participation is crucial.

CALFED has just released a new draft of its environmental plan (known as a "*Programmatic* EIS/EIR"), which promises to restore the Bay-Delta ecosystem. At the same time, the plan also leans toward building some new water storage facilities to meet the perceived water needs of the state's growing population. Unfortunately, those future water demands are based on flawed assumptions created by the state's Department of Water Resources. Furthermore, CALFED has yet to include the potential savings from more aggressive water conservation programs.

Just how CALFED intends to restore an ecosystem degraded by dams by building yet more dams still hasn't been spelled out in its massive, multi-volume report. But in response to the strong concerns expressed by conservationists about building new dams and harming the Bay-Delta's aquatic ecosystem even further, the effort promises not to "pursue storage at new on-stream reservoir sites." It instead focuses on raising and enlarging existing dams and reservoirs, and building new, so-called 'offstream' storage reservoirs.

As the map on the next page shows, CALFED identifies a number of possible projects to increase surface water storage supplies, including the raising of Shasta and Friant dams on the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers. In addition, it is studying the potential for offstream storage reservoirs, primarily along the west side of the Central Valley. Offstream storage might be considered environmentally superior to standard dams because it doesn't mean inundating a live river. However, CALFED has largely failed to consider the damages to existing wildlife habitat or the impacts of any new water diversions needed to fill these supposedly benign offstream facilities.

In addition to new water storage facilities, CALFED is pursuing a multi-million dollar fish and wildlife habitat restoration program in the Central Valley. This needed program includes purchasing water and habitat for fish and wildlife, removing some dams that have acted as barriers to fish migration, improving existing structures or installing new ones such as fish screens to reduce ecosystem impacts, restoring degraded riparian and wetland habitat, and conducting further studies to better determine ecosystem restoration needs.

Conservationists have repeatedly rejected the premise that good ecosystem restoration must go hand-in-hand with building new dams. Much still can be done to increase the efficient use and conservation of our existing water supplies.

The environment should not be held hostage by water interests intent on milking more money from the taxpayers to build new dams that only will result in further damage to public resources.

For more information, contact Steve Evans at Friends of the River, (916) 442-3155 x221 (sevans@friendsotheriver.org) or Jackie McCort at the Sierra Club, (415) 977-5727 (jackie.mccort@sierraclub.org).

Attend a CALFED Bay-Delta Public Hearing.

Help Shape California's Future!

Speak up for water conservation, habitat restoration, and no new reservoirs.

Each meeting begins at 6 p.m., with public comment taken between 7-9 p.m.

AUGUST

18 **Stockton**, U.C. Cooperative Extension, 420 South Wilson Way
19 **San Bernardino**, City Council Chambers, 300 North D St.
24 **Los Angeles**, Huntington Park Family Center, 3355 E. Gage Ave., Huntington Park
25 **Salinas**, Rodeo Inn, 808 North Main St.
26 **Oakland**, Nile Hall, 1233 Preservation Park Way
31 **Pasadena**, Holiday Inn, 303 East Cordova St.

SEPTEMBER

1 **San Diego**, Fleet Science Center Balboa Park, 1875 El Prado
2 **Costa Mesa**, Westin Southcoast Plaza Hotel, 1400 Bristol St.
7 **San Jose**, SJ Unified School District Bd. Rm., 855 Lenzen Ave
8 **Antioch**, Rodriguez Community Ctr. Theater, 213 F Street
9 **Santa Rosa**, Burbank Center, 50 Mark West Springs Rd.
14 **Visalia**, Visalia Convention Center, 303 E. Acequia
15 **Chico**, Community Center, 545 Vallombrosa Ave
21 **Redding**, Doubletree Hotel, 1830 Hilltop Dr.
22 **Sacramento**, Convention Center, 1030 15th St.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Write to Rick Breitenbach, CALFED Bay-Delta Program, 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155, Sacramento, CA 95814. Urge CALFED to adopt a plan that:

- Maximizes water efficiency and conservation, and bases future water needs on realistic assumptions rather than inflated demands;
- Removes barrier dams, increases instream flows, and acquires and restores habitat for fish and wildlife
- Does not rely on proposed dam raises or new offstream storage reservoirs
- Improves water quality by enforcing pollution limits

The deadline for public comment on CALFED's plan is September 23, 1999. Its website is http://calfed.ca.gov

FRIENDS OF THE RIVER

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A Bird's-Eye View c

Proposed Dams & Selecte

Battle Creek Restoration Project
CALFED agencies are negotiating with PG&E to remove up to five hydroelectric dams on Battle Creek and increase instream flows, which will restore more than 42 miles of salmon and steelhead habitat.

YES

Big Chico Creek
Big Chico Creek Watershed Strategy
CALFED is funding the development of conservation strategies for Big Chico Creek and other key watersheds.

What are they?

Centerville Dam
A proposal to study the feasibility of removing the Centerville Dam on Butte Creek to restore historic salmon and steelhead runs has been blocked by local landowners.

Why?

Butte Creek Dam Removal
Up to four small irrigation dams have been removed to facilitate migration of endangered salmon and steelhead.

Is this enough?

YES

Red Bluff Diversion Dam
This existing diversion dam is being modified to ease passage of migrating salmon and steelhead.

YES

Clough Dam
This small diversion dam on Mill Creek is being removed to ease passage for endangered salmon and steelhead.

N

Pit River

McCloud River

Upper Sacramento River

Redding

Battle Creek

Mill Creek

DeerCreek

Clear Creek

Big Chico Creek

Butte Creek

Feather River

Yuba River

Bear River

Thomas Creek

Stony Creek

Sacramento River

Cottonwood Creek

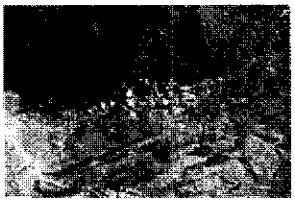
Cache Creek

Shasta Dam Raise
CALFED is studying a possible 6.5 foot raise of Shasta Dam that could produce an additional 300,000 acre feet of water. But the raise would drown upstream portions of the McCloud and Upper Sacramento rivers.

NO

McCormick-Saeltzer Dam
CALFED is proposing to remove this small diversion dam on Clear Creek, which acts as a barrier to migrating salmon and steelhead.

Good



Cottonwood Creek Dippingvat Dam
As part of the Red Bank proposed offstream storage project, CALFED is considering building the 250 foot-high Dippingvat Dam, creating a 104,000 acre foot reservoir on the South Fork of Cottonwood Creek. The dam would block access to critical upstream habitat for endangered salmon and steelhead.

NO

Thomes-Newville Offstream Storage Project
This 3 million acre foot reservoir would be supplied by large water diversions from the Sacramento River.

NO

Sacramento River Meanderbelt
CALFED agencies are purchasing habitat along the Sacramento River to reestablish the naturally meandering riparian ecosystem. However, large water diversions from the river to feed proposed offstreams reservoirs could reduce flows needed to sustain the river's meander.

THINK IT OVER

Sites-Colusa Offstream Storage Projects
The 1.9 million acre foot Sites Project or the its larger cousin, the 3 million acre foot Colusa Project, would be supplied by large water diversions from the Sacramento River.

NO

Yolo Bypass Watershed Restoration
CALFED has funded a plan to restore fish and wildlife habitat in the Yolo Bypass.

YES

Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge
CALFED is funding the acquisition of additional wildlife habitat.

YE

Delta Habitat Restoration
Several CALFED projects will restore shallow aquatic habitat in the Delta.

YE

Thomes-Newville reservoir site

Sacramento River

Sites Valley

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ne CalFed Bay-Delta Program

toration Projects In The Great Central Valley

Englebright Dam Removal
A CALFED proposal to restore salmon and steelhead upstream of Englebright Dam has run into a buzz-saw of controversy, but a collaborative study process to determine the feasibility of removing the dam is proceeding.

Cosumnes River Preserve
CALFED is funding the acquisition of additional wildlife habitat and to expand the river's floodway.

Excellent

Delta Flows
A proposal to build a peripheral canal around the Delta has been shelved at this time. Instead, CALFED will "improve" existing Delta channels to facilitate water diversions and mitigate impacts on resident and migrating fish.

What is "improving"?

Montgomery Offstream Project
CALFED is studying this 240,000 acre foot offstream storage reservoir, which would be supplied by water diversions from the Merced River and its tributaries.

DO WE NEED THIS CHANGE?

Key
- ▽ Dam enlargments and offstream storage reservoirs
- ⊘ Barriers to fish migration
- ◄► Selected Ecosystem Restoration Projects

Good. Go Forward

In-Delta Storage
CALFED is studying the feasibility of storing up to 500,000 acre feet of water in existing Delta islands.

Tell us about it.

Friant Dam Enlargement
Even though it failed CALFED's initial review due to low water yield and poor economics, CALFED is continuing to study the possible raising of Friant Dam on the San Joaquin River to provide an additional 720,000 acre feet of storage. The proposal would flood most of the Millerton State Recreation Area and the San Joaquin River upstream of the current reservoir.

NO.

Cosumnes River
Stanislaus River
Tuolumne River
Merced River
Chowchilla River
Fresno River
San Joaquin River
American River
Calaveras River
Mokelumne River
Fresno
Delta
San Francisco Bay
San Francisco

San Joaquin Fish Barrier
More than 96 percent of the flow of the San Joaquin River is diverted entirely out of the river bed downstream of Friant Dam, making it difficult for migrating salmon to swim beyond the Merced River confluence. CALFED is purchasing water from irrigators to reestablish the river flow between Fresno and the Mendota and to restore the river's former cottonwood forest.

GREED! Reduce the flow. Grow different crops.

Ingram Canyon Offstream Project
Even though it failed CALFED's initial review due to low water yield and poor economics, CALFED is continuing to study this 1.2 million acre foot offstream storage reservoir, which would be supplied by Delta water diversions via existing state and federal canals.

Los Vaqueros Enlargement
Even though it failed CALFED's initial review due to low water yield and poor economics, CALFED is continuing to study a proposed enlargement of the existing Los Vaqueros offstream reservoir, to be supplied by nearly a million acre feet of additional Delta water diversions.

Questionable

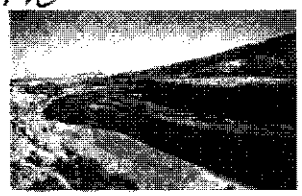
Orestimba, Garzas, & Quinto Offstream Projects
Even though they failed CALFED's initial review due to low water yield and poor economics, CALFED is continuing to study these offstream storage reservoirs, ranging up to 1.7 million acre feet in size. They would be supplied by Delta water diversions via existing state and federal canals. The projects would drown critical habitat recently acquired by The Nature Conservancy for several threatened and endangered species.

NO STOP

Orestimba Creek

Panoche Offstream Project
Even though it failed CALFED's initial review due to low water yield and poor economics, CALFED is continuing to study this 3.1 million acre foot offstream storage reservoir, which would be supplied by Delta water diversions via existing state and federal canals. The project would drown critical habitat for several threatened and endangered species and public lands that make up part of the Panoche Hills Wilderness Study Area.

NO



Panoche Creek

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Which one do you like?

Water in California takes many forms

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