



CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM

Programmatic Record of Decision

August 28, 2000

CALFED Water Transfer Program.

Establishing a Regulatory Baseline by delineating existing regulatory requirements and clarifying implementation of specific regulatory actions (see EWA Section).

Providing a commitment that there will be no reductions, beyond the baseline regulatory levels described below, in CVP or SWP Delta exports to State and Federal project water users resulting from measures to protect fish. This commitment will initially be provided for the first four years of Stage 1, as outlined in the MSCS Conservation Agreement (see Attachment 5 to this ROD).

In addition, CALFED Agencies will take the following actions in Stage 1:

Seek SWRCB approval of Joint Point of Diversion and share water derived from Joint Point of Diversion between the CVP and the EWA.

Implement conjunctive management projects, water conservation measures and water transfers, as described in the sections below.

Allocate Proposition 13 funds dedicated to interim water supply reliability and water quality.

Proposition 13 contains over \$630 million for these purposes, including the following:

- \$200 million for groundwater storage projects.
- \$250 million for Stage 1 water quality actions and water management actions.
- \$180 million for water supply and water quality infrastructure projects in areas that draw supplies from the Delta.

In the first four years of Stage 1, it is anticipated that water deliveries will remain at recent levels for most water users who depend upon water from the CVP, including Exchange Contractors, North of Delta CVP agricultural contractors, refuges, and M&I contractors, as well as for SWP contractors and non-project water users. It is also anticipated that implementation of Joint Point of Diversion, operational flexibility, interagency cooperation, EWA implementation, and other cooperative water management actions (some of which may require further specific environmental review) will result in normal years in an increase to CVP south-of-Delta agricultural water service contractors of 15 percent (or greater) of existing contract totals to 65 to 70 percent. This normal year supply improvement may not be achieved in all years due to annual hydrologic variability and its impact on carryover storage conditions. Substantial progress toward implementation of other program elements, such as development of EWA assets, is also necessary. Water supplies in dry years are likely to be less than the anticipated amounts and more in above normal years. As discussed in this ROD, CALFED Agencies are committed to working with local agencies to implement these regional supply actions and to support local water management actions including conservation and other local measures. Part of this effort will include development of a plan for alternative refuge supplies and conveyance.

The Secretary of the Interior is expected to make a decision later this year on Trinity River flows

pursuant to the original Trinity authorization, the Trinity Restoration Act of 1984, and the CVPIA. The substance of that decision is unknown and therefore cannot be addressed at this time. It is separate from and will not be affected by this ROD. Certain CALFED Agencies have considered the potential that the Trinity River decision may affect CVP allocation and have concluded that it will not affect the allocations to CVP south-of-Delta agricultural water service contractors described immediately above.

Complementary Action

The Framework identified the following action which was not analyzed in the Final Programmatic EIS/EIR.

Governor's Drought Contingency Plan. CALFED Agencies recognize that in the next several years critical water shortages may occur that severely impact the health, welfare and economy of California. To avoid such serious impacts, the Governor has convened a panel, chaired by the Director of DWR, for the purpose of developing a contingency plan to reduce the impacts of critical water shortages primarily for agricultural and urban water users. The plan will identify all available resources (e.g., water transfers, water exchanges, groundwater programs, local partnerships), building upon the experience gained with Governor's Drought Water Bank, to minimize such shortages. The plan also will recommend appropriate funding mechanisms. In addition, CALFED Agencies commit to facilitate transfers of water and expedite regulatory processes to assist in implementation of the plan consistent with legal requirements. The Governor's Panel will submit the plan to the Governor by December 2000.

2.2.5 Storage

Expanding water storage capacity is critical to the successful implementation of all aspects of the CALFED Program. Not only is additional storage needed to meet the needs of a growing population but, if strategically located, it will provide much needed flexibility in the system to improve water quality and support fish restoration efforts. Water supply reliability depends upon capturing water during peak flows and during wet years, as well as more efficient water use through conservation and recycling.

Actions Included in the Programmatic EIS/EIR

The Program identified actions that will be pursued in Stage 1 to expand storage capacity at existing reservoirs and strategically located off-stream sites by approximately 950 TAF, and to implement a major expansion of more environmentally sensitive groundwater storage for an additional 500 TAF to 1 MAF. CALFED Agencies are committed to increasing storage through the development of acceptable projects described below. Storage projects are not developed in