

# CALFED Bay-Delta Program



*Transparency. Accountability. Performance.*

## What's CALFED?

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is the largest and most comprehensive water management and ecosystem restoration program in the nation. It brings together 25 state and federal agencies to work cooperatively with local and regional interests to resolve often competing demands for California's water supply.

The Bay and Delta formed by California's two largest rivers, the Sacramento and San Joaquin, is a source of drinking water for more than 23 million Californians and home to more than 750 plant and animal species. It supports 80 percent of the state's commercial salmon industry and irrigates much of California's farmland.

The CALFED Program was formed in 1995 to develop and implement a 30-year plan to restore the ecological health of the Bay and Delta, improve water supply reliability and water quality, and stabilize the levee systems that provide the foundation for the Delta.

## What's CALFED done?

The CALFED Record of Decision, detailing the 30-year improvement plan, was signed by the state and federal governments in August 2000.

Thus far, the Program has been funded primarily by state bond measures and local matching funds, with additional contributions from the federal government and water users.

In the five years since the ROD was signed, the CALFED agencies have invested nearly \$3 billion to:

- Increase the state's annual water supply by 390,000 acre-feet through groundwater storage, conservation and water recycling.
- Improve up-stream fish passage to increase salmon populations and protect and restore 100,000 acres of habitat. These actions and others provide the foundation for current water supply reliability and future improvements.
- Increase protection of, and maintain, nearly 700 miles of Delta levees.
- Improve drinking water quality through source control and treatment technology, and fund improvements in environmental water quality.
- Increase the body of scientific knowledge about the Delta with the goal of integrating real-time Delta operations with sound science.



Where's  
CALFED  
headed?

The Governor's May budget revision sets forth a three-point plan to be accomplished between now and Nov. 1, 2005.

- **Independent Review** — Conduct an independent program and fiscal review of the CALFED Program to ensure accountability, highlight accomplishments, determine program status, and guide adjustments to the Program.
- **Program Priorities** — Re-focus the efforts of the California Bay-Delta Authority and the other CALFED state agencies on solving conflicts associated with Delta water supply, water quality, levee stability, and the environment.
- **Financing** – Develop a 10-year action plan in coordination with stakeholders and our federal partners. This action plan must focus on solving the highest priority Delta issues, link future water user payments to specific program actions that improve water supply reliability, balance statewide actions with regional water management, and include funding from the state, federal and local levels consistent with the beneficiaries-pay principle.

What are  
the high  
priority  
issues?

Fund and conduct additional research as the basis for a coordinated response to the apparent decline in the abundance of several open-water fish species in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The research is designed to clarify the nature of the decline and preliminarily screen possible explanations: 1) ecological effects of non-indigenous species; 2) unexpected effects of recent changes in water project operations, and 3) toxic effects of agricultural chemicals and blue-green algae.

Begin the public review and implementation process for a series of actions intended to improve the coordination and flexibility of state and federal water project operations. Known as the South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP), these actions also are intended to ensure water quality and quantity for South Delta water users and protect salmon.

Realign Science Program priorities to provide independent and credible directed oversight and better facilitate and guide multi-agency science efforts, including monitoring and research.

Why  
support  
CALFED?

The CALFED Program embodies some of the most important ideals of government: interagency coordination, collaborative problem-solving and public involvement leading to open and transparent decision-making and accountability.