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WILSON, BABBITT DISCUSS KEY BAY-DELTA RESTORATION PRINCIPLES

SACRAMENTO – Governor Pete Wilson and Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt met today to discuss a series of elements regarding CALFED Bay-Delta Program and reemphasized their determination to put forward a final draft alternative by year's end. They agreed to the attached preferred alternative principles.

"We are committed to solving the state's long term water needs for our cities, farms, and environment," Wilson said. "I am pleased that Secretary Babbitt also shares my desire to conclude a package of interim measures to ensure regulatory stability and progress on our immediate water quality and water supply needs while the permanent solutions are being built."

"We now have a firm schedule for advancing key decisions on the CALFED process this year," Babbitt said. "This is a crucial step toward restoring the environment of the Bay and Delta while also providing improved water supply reliability and quality. This advance would not have been possible without strong involvement of stakeholder groups in the EIS/EIR process. It is equally clear that the multiple federal and state agencies are continuing to work in a coordinated and collaborative manner to develop a consensus solution."

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program, initiated in 1995 by Governor Pete Wilson and the Clinton Administration, is an unprecedented collaboration among state and federal agencies and the state's leading urban, agricultural, and environmental interests to address and resolve the environmental and water management problems associated with the Bay-Delta system based on consensus. CALFED consists of the decision-makers of these agencies as well as technical staff. The mission of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program is to develop a long-term comprehensive plan that will restore ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta system.

- ATTACHMENT IS THE CALFED PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPLES

CALFED Approach to Developing Preferred Alternative

I. Nature of Document

The Final Draft EIS/EIR will contain a preferred alternative that will define implementation stages with emphasis on a first stage which demonstrates improvement for all resource areas (ecosystem health, levee stability, water quality and water supply reliability).

The first stage of implementation shall:

- o Be defined as the period prior to final action on any major surface storage or new channel conveyance projects as may be contained in the CALFED draft preferred alternative (seven to 10 years);
- o Provide linkage between the various Program elements to ensure that conflicts are reduced and benefits are achieved for all interests;
- o Contain an aggressive mix of project implementation, demonstration projects, and

planning activities in order to maintain steady progress on overall goals;

o Identify performance targets and milestones to guide implementation of the Program.

The document will contain a list of actions and schedule for implementation such that all interests can assess the overall balance of the preferred alternative.

II. Assurances

The preferred alternative will include assurances that the CALFED Program will provide near-term stability and will make significant progress on ecosystem restoration and water supply reliability during each stage of implementation.

III. Provide Near-Term Stability

The state and federal agencies will collaborate with stakeholders to develop a package that will provide assurances after expiration of the 1994 Accord to provide similar stability and program continuity prior to a final Record of Decision on the long-term Program. The final draft EIS/EIR will include an assurance package that addresses need for regulatory stability during the first seven to 10 year stage of the program.

IV. Financing/Cost-Share Agreements

The Final Draft EIS/EIR will contain a financing package and cost-share arrangements to implement the preferred alternative.

V. Stakeholder Involvement

The preferred alternative will be developed through a collaborative process with all stakeholders to ensure that conflicts are reduced and benefits achieved for all interests. We challenge stakeholders from all interests to redouble their efforts to join together and work with our staffs to reach consensus on the long-term CALFED solution.