



CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM

Programmatic
Environmental Impact Statement/
Environmental Impact Report

Draft
June 1999

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Prepared by the CALFED Bay-Delta Program for the
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,
Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and
California Resources Agency

This Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR) is prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) policy and procedures for implementing NEPA, and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program (Program) is a cooperative effort of 15 state and federal agencies with regulatory and management responsibilities in the San Francisco Bay/San Joaquin River Bay-Delta to develop a long-term plan to restore ecosystem health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta system. The objective of this collaborative planning process is to identify comprehensive solutions to the problems of ecosystem quality, water supply reliability, water quality, and Delta levee and channel integrity.

Each of the four alternatives, including the Preferred Program Alternative, includes Ecosystem Restoration, Water Quality, Levee System Integrity, Water Use Efficiency, Water Transfer, Watershed, Storage, and Conveyance elements.

Because the problems addressed by the Program and the solutions are closely interrelated, the descriptions of each of the Program elements, except for the Conveyance element, do not vary among alternatives. This is a programmatic-level document to select a long-term plan. The document focuses on the interrelated long-term and cumulative consequences of each of the alternatives. Implementation of the long-term plan will follow the approval of a Final Programmatic EIS/EIR, and subsequent environmental review for project-specific aspects of the Program will be required.

The Program issued a Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR in March 1998. Because a Preferred Program Alternative has been identified since that time, the Program decided to prepare a new Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR. The primary difference between the two documents is the analysis associated with the Preferred Program Alternative and the reduction in the number of alternatives from 12 to 4. The Program also took the opportunity to update its analysis of consequences for all alternatives and to restructure the document into a more reader-friendly format. Comments received on the previous draft document are identified or addressed, as appropriate, in the impact analyses. As this is a new document, you will need to provide specific comments on this document even if you commented on the previous draft.

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Preface

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program (Program) includes a series of proposed actions that will take place in stages over time and a decision-making process for moving forward through the next phase of the Program. This preface describes the relationships between:

- The Preferred Program Alternative evaluated in this document and the overall CALFED Program decision.
- This document and the appendices, which together constitute the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR).
- The programmatic impact analysis in this document and future proposed actions with project-specific impact analysis in subsequent documents.

Preferred Program Alternative

The Preferred Program Alternative consists of a set of broadly described programmatic actions that set the long-term, overall direction of the Program. However, detail at a greater level of specificity than is available in the programmatic description of the Preferred Program Alternative is important to understanding how this large, complex program may be implemented, funded, and governed in the future. Accordingly, the CALFED agencies have described proposed actions for the first years following a Record of Decision/Certification of the final, as well as set out a long-term implementation strategy.

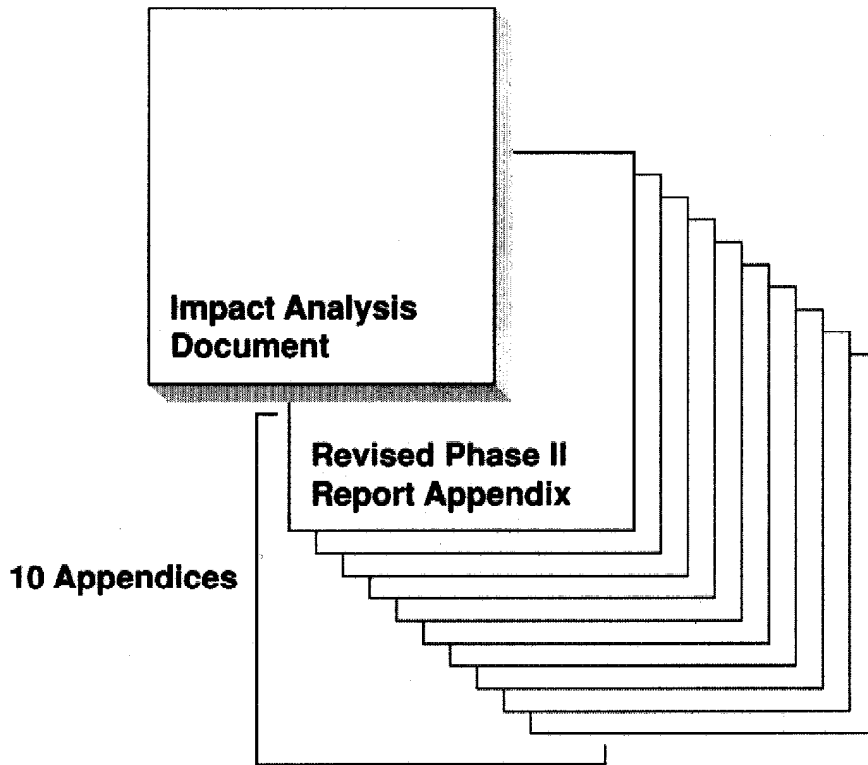
The Preferred Program Alternative consists of a set of broadly described programmatic actions that set the long-term, overall direction of the Program.

The potential near-term actions and long-term implementation strategy are presented in the *Implementation Plan and the Revised Phase II Report Appendices*. The near-term actions and the long-term implementation strategy share two characteristics: they are designed to achieve multiple benefits by emphasizing actions that serve several purposes, and they will be implemented in ways that increase our knowledge so that we can adapt subsequent actions to increase their effectiveness. As appropriate, the near- and long-term actions will be subject to subsequent alternative analysis, environmental review, and permitting decisions before these actions are implemented. Together, the description of the Preferred Program Alternative, the near-term actions, and the long-term implementation strategy make up the CALFED Program Decision. The CALFED Program Decision is contained in Attachment B to this document and more broadly covered in the Revised Phase II Report Appendix.



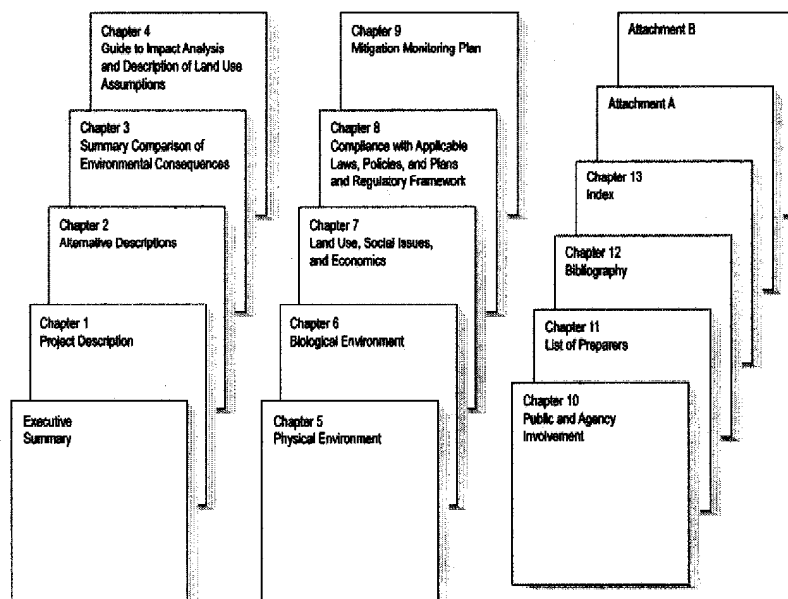
Contents of the Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR

The Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR includes an impact analysis document and 10 appendices. The illustration below shows how these documents fit together.



Impact Analysis Document. The impact analysis document contains the required programmatic environmental document elements, including an Executive Summary. The illustration at the right depicts those elements.

Appendices. The Revised Phase II Report Appendix contains a general summary of the other appendices. More fundamentally, it also describes the Program process, the fundamental Program concepts that have guided their development, and analyses that have revealed the comparative



technical advantages of each alternative. Further, this report describes how this large, complex program may be implemented, funded, and governed in the future.

The six program plan appendices are the:

- Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan (3 volumes)
- Water Quality Program Plan
- Water Use Efficiency Program Plan
- Water Transfer Program Plan
- Long-Term Levee Protection Plan
- Watershed Program Plan

The six program plans include a description of programmatic plans and actions that are evaluated in this impact analysis document as well as more specific actions that will be subject, as appropriate, to subsequent environmental review.

The remaining three appendices are:

The Implementation Plan Appendix describes the proposed schedule and process for implementing near-term actions in the context of the overall implementation approach, including financial and assurance strategies.

The Multi-Species Conservation Strategy Appendix describes a comprehensive species and habitat conservation program that builds on the Ecosystem Restoration Program to provide a framework for compliance with endangered species laws.

The Comprehensive Monitoring, Assessment, and Research Program Appendix describes the information generated from monitoring, assessment, and research will be used to (1) assess the effectiveness of existing actions (2) guide additional research and (3) modify the actions of each of the Program elements in order to improve the Program's ability to meet its goals and objectives.

Programmatic Impact Analysis

The Program currently consists of multiple actions that are diverse, geographically dispersed, and generally described. These actions will be carried out over the course of many years. In addition, there is some uncertainty regarding the eventual outcome of Program actions. Consequently, the Program will be implemented in stages, using the information gained by adaptive management to modify and refine Program actions over time, within the framework of the Preferred Program Alternative. Given the uncertainties, the large scope of the Program area, and the conceptual nature of the proposed actions, the Program elected to prepare a Programmatic EIS/EIR.

This document provides a broad overview of the potential actions that could be taken by the Program. It describes, in a broad sense, the environmental consequences of proposed actions and enables decisions to be made regarding Program direction and content. Information from this document will be incorporated by reference into subsequent tiered environmental documents for specific projects. This level of analysis is consistent with

The Multi-Species Conservation Strategy describes a comprehensive species and habitat conservation program.

Given the uncertainties, the large scope of the Program area, and the conceptual nature of the proposed actions, the Program elected to prepare a Programmatic EIS/EIR.

Preface

the guidance for programmatic documents provided by the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and by the State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

The Preferred Program Alternative will not, in itself, enact any changes in law, regulation, or policy, or allow project construction. Instead, the Preferred Program Alternative describes programmatic actions that set the long-term, overall direction of the Program. Any subsequent actions or facility construction stemming from the programmatic actions in the Preferred Program Alternative must be developed in compliance with NEPA, CEQA, and other applicable laws and regulatory processes.

The Preferred Program Alternative will not, in itself, enact any changes in law, regulation, or policy, or allow project construction.

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








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Attachment B. The CALFED Program Decision B-1



Appendices

Revised Phase II Report
Implementation Plan

Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan:

Volume I: Ecological Attributes of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Watershed

Volume II: Ecological Management Zone Visions

Volume III: Strategic Plan for Ecosystem Restoration

Long-Term Levee Protection Plan

Water Quality Program Plan

Water Use Efficiency Program Plan

Water Transfer Program Plan

Watershed Program Plan

Multi-Species Conservation Strategy

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