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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 17, 2003

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MEDIA ADVISORY

New California Bay-Delta Authority Assumes Oversight of CALFED Program *Regional Efforts Will Continue to Address Water Supply and Ecosystem Problems*

Sacramento – Effective January 1, a new state agency has formally assumed responsibility for overseeing implementation of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. The California Bay-Delta Authority, established by legislation enacted in 2002, provides a permanent governance structure for the collaborative state-federal effort that began in 1994.

The Authority will have a governing body that includes representatives from six state agencies and six federal agencies, five public members from the Program’s five regions to be appointed by the Governor in consultation with the Secretary of Interior, two at-large public members to be appointed by the Legislature, a representative of the Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee and four non-voting members from the water committees of the Legislature.

Housed within the California Resources Agency, the Authority is charged specifically with ensuring balanced implementation of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, providing accountability to the Legislature, Congress and the public, and ensuring the use of sound science across all Program areas.

The CALFED Program is a collaborative effort to implement a long-term, comprehensive plan to restore the ecological health of the Bay-Delta system and improve water quality and water supply reliability. The Program has completed its second year of implementation of the plan, with more than \$840 million invested to date to improve water quality, restore habitats, expand storage, strengthen levees and increase water use efficiency.

Program Director Patrick Wright said the new Authority will build on the accomplishments of the CALFED Program to date through further investments in collaborative, locally based solutions, science-based decision-making, extensive public and stakeholder involvement, strong interagency coordination at all levels, and balanced implementation.

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CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Water Resources
Department of Fish and Game
The Reclamation Board
Delta Protection Commission
Department of Conservation
San Francisco Bay Conservation
and Development Commission

California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board
Department of Health Services
Department of Food and Agriculture

Federal

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Fish and Wildlife Service
Geological Survey
Bureau of Land Management
Environmental Protection
Agency
Army Corps of Engineers
Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Forest Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service
Western Area Power Administration

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Prior to creation of the Authority, the CALFED Program functioned as a consortium of state and federal agencies, coordinating their activities through a Memorandum of Understanding to implement various elements of the Bay-Delta Plan, set forth in CALFED's 2000 Record of Decision. Under the Authority, the agencies and public members will have a more formalized role in advancing the goals of the Program.

The Authority was established by enactment of Senate Bill 1653 (Costa) of 2002. The legislation calls for the Authority to sunset on January 1, 2006, unless federal legislation has been enacted authorizing the participation of appropriate federal agencies in the Authority.

For more information, visit the "What's New" section of the website at <http://calfed.ca.gov>.

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Army Corps of Engineers

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Natural Resources Conservation Service
Forest Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service
Western Area Power Administration