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**Court Upholds Environmental Review for CALFED *Bay-Delta Program***

Sacramento – A Superior Court judge has upheld the massive environmental impact report for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, an ambitious 30-year water management plan adopted by the state and federal governments to address chronic problems in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

In a 38-page decision, Sacramento Superior Court Judge Patricia C. Esgro rejected dozens of arguments by two separate groups of petitioners led by the California Farm Bureau Federation and the Regional Council of Rural Counties. The petitioners claimed the report failed to adequately address several issues, including the program’s potential impacts on agricultural lands.

State Secretary of Resources Mary Nichols said the ruling validates CALFED’s approach. “The Court recognized that CALFED is a work in progress, as well as the massive documentation and analysis we performed at the program level. As we move forward with specific projects, we are committed to detailed environmental review and full public participation.”

Esgro concluded the environmental review process used by CALFED met all requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In fact, the decision notes that in some cases the CALFED environmental report went beyond the analysis required in a programmatic review by including a comprehensive set of measures to address the impact of the Program on agricultural lands.

“CALFED will remain strongly committed to addressing the issues raised by rural and agricultural communities,” said CALFED Director Patrick Wright. “We can accomplish more through collaboration than litigation.” Wright also noted that the CALFED program, now in its third year of implementation, is making solid progress toward its goals. “Water supplies have been more reliable, and fisheries are more healthy,” Wright said. “In short, the plan is working.”

Esgro’s ruling, which was issued April 1, is available at [http://www.saccourt.com/CoordCases/baydelta/baydelta\\_orders.asp](http://www.saccourt.com/CoordCases/baydelta/baydelta_orders.asp).

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The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is a cooperative effort of more than 20 state and federal agencies working with local communities to improve the quality and reliability of California’s water supplies and revive the San Francisco Bay-Delta ecosystem. The Bay-Delta plan is the largest, most comprehensive water management effort in the nation.

**CALFED**

**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