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**STATE AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS WORK TO RESOLVE COMPLICATIONS
WITH STATE POLITICAL REFORM ACT**

State and Federal officials continue to work to find a way to enable federal representatives to serve on the California Bay Delta Authority (Authority) in light of a recent ruling by California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) regarding the California Political Reform Act's conflict-of-interest and financial disclosure rules.

The FPPC concluded in a legal advice letter that the six federal members of the Authority are required to comply with the financial disclosure and conflict of interest rules of the state Political Reform Act.

Jason Peltier, who represents the Office of the Secretary of the Interior on the Authority, says, "The federal members already are covered under financial and conflict of interest provisions of federal law and believe that is sufficient to be able to continue to participate as a member of the Authority. Moreover, the federal members believe that they enjoy sovereign immunity from application of state law when acting in their official capacity and within the scope of their employment."

In light of the FPPC's legal position, the six federal agency representatives are not attending the June 9-10, Authority meeting in Sacramento.

"We are working to find a way to resolve this issue quickly," said California Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman. "Federal participation in Bay Delta Authority deliberations is a key factor towards ensuring a balanced water program for California. Therefore, we expect to reach a satisfactory conclusion to this matter."

Jason Peltier says "We intend to be fully engaged in all other CALFED activities to implement a balanced resource program for all Californians. Our inability to attend the Authority meeting is not intended to indicate any lack of support for the CALFED process."

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The six federal members involved in the Authority include the Office of the Secretary of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The California Bay-Delta Authority is a state agency designed to provide oversight, public accountability and coordination among the 25 state and federal agencies working cooperatively to implement the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. The Program is the largest, most comprehensive water management effort in the nation. It is designed to improve the quality and reliability of California's water supplies and restore the Bay-Delta ecosystem.

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