



1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155 (916) 657-2666
Sacramento, California 95814 FAX (916) 654-9780
<http://calfed.ca.gov>

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CONTACT: Margaret Gidding
(916) 654-7137

CALFED WATER TRANSFER WEB SITE AVAILABLE

Sacramento – The CALFED Bay-Delta Program’s “On Tap” California water market information web site is now operational and located at <http://ontap.ca.gov>. The site is an online information source for California water market transactions that will continue to be developed and expanded.

The initial site contains a database of historic water transactions that will enable users to quickly access available water transfer information, a software program to assist and guide water transfer proponents through agency water transfer approval processes, and related tools, links, research, and information.

The On Tap web site will help:

- Disclose agencies’ water transfer approval policies and procedures.
- Help streamline approval processes for applicants and reviewers by informing interested parties of agency basis for approval, information requirements, and other matters related to water transfers, thereby reducing costs.
- Improve agency coordination.
- Create a public forum for the water market.
- Disseminate up-to-date information on transfer activities.

An effective water market is one of several water management tools needed to improve the State’s water supply reliability. The three agencies who hold responsibility for reviewing most water market transaction proposals have committed staff and resources to develop this valuable resource tool: the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, California Department of Water Resources, and State Water Resources Control Board.

- more -

CALFED Agencies

California

- The Resources Agency
- Department of Fish and Game
- Department of Water Resources
- The Reclamation Board
- California Environmental Protection Agency
- State Water Resources Control Board
- Department of Food and Agriculture
- Delta Protection Commission

Federal

- Environmental Protection Agency
- Department of the Interior
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- Department of Agriculture
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Department of Commerce
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Western Area Power Administration

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Features will continue to be added to the web site, including a “pending transaction” section, more detailed responses to questions and inquiries, a public forum to exchange information on water market issues, and forecasts of conveyance availability as projected by DWR and USBR.

The On Tap web site is part of CALFED’s Water Transfers Program. The goal of the Program is to encourage development of a more effective water transfer market that facilitates water transfers and streamlines the approval process, while protecting water rights, environmental conditions, and local economic interests. Many of the Program tasks focus on changing or refining policies and procedures of the agencies responsible for reviewing and approving most water transfer activities.

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program was established in 1995 to develop a balanced, comprehensive plan restore ecological health and improve water supply reliability in the Bay-Delta system. On June 9, 2000, Governor Davis and Secretary Babbitt released the “California’s Water Future: A Framework for Action.” The Framework, together with the Record of Decision issued on August 28, sets forth the goals, milestones, and commitments for the first seven years of implementation. The Program is the largest, most comprehensive water management plan in the nation.

For more information about the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, visit the web site at <http://calfed.ca.gov>.

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