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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR CALFED  
ENVIRONMENTAL WATER ACCOUNT**

Sacramento – The CALFED Bay-Delta Program Programmatic Record of Decision includes a program referred to as the Environmental Water Account (EWA). The intent of the EWA is to protect fish in the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta estuary. The Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) will prepare a joint Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for implementing the EWA. The environmental document will focus on the evaluation of alternative strategies for banking, borrowing, transferring, and using water acquisitions. The draft environmental document is expected to be available in December 2001.

The EWA, one element of the long-term plan to address problems in the Bay-Delta estuary, is intended to protect fish without adversely affecting Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) operations. This approach to fish protection requires the acquisition of alternative sources of CVP/SWP water supply. The acquisitions will be used to make environmentally beneficial changes in CVP/SWP operations at no uncompensated water cost to the projects' water users.

Reclamation will be the lead Federal agency; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service will be cooperating agencies for the EIS/EIR. DWR will be the lead State agency; the Department of Fish and Game will be a responsible agency.

A series of public scoping meetings will be held to encourage public input on alternatives, concerns, and issues to be addressed in the EIS/EIR. The scoping meetings are an opportunity for the public to provide input on the EWA and how it will integrate with other water transfer programs. The meetings will be held:

**Sacramento**  
Thursday, July 19, 10 a.m. to Noon  
Best Western Expo Inn  
1413 Howe Avenue, Expo Room

**Chico**  
Thursday, July 19, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Chico Recreation District  
545 Vallombrosa

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**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

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

**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR CALFED ENVIRONMENTAL WATER ACCOUNT, page 2**

**Oakland**

Monday, July 23, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Federal Building  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, North Tower, Room H

**Tracy**

Tuesday, July 24, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
VFW  
430 West Grant Line Road

**Bakersfield**

Wednesday, July 25, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
DoubleTree  
3100 Camino Del Rio Court, Sierra Room

**Los Angeles**

Thursday, July 26, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Los Angeles Convention Center  
1201 South Figueroa Street, Room 513

If you have questions on the preparation of the environmental document, contact Michelle Light, Project Manager, Reclamation, at (916) 978-5060, TDD 1-888-877-5379; or Delores Brown, Mitigation and Restoration Branch Chief, DWR, at (916) 227-2407. Written comments should be sent to Michelle Light, Project Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825. For additional information on the public scoping meetings, please contact Sammie Cervantes, Reclamation, at (916) 978-5104, TDD 1-888-877-5379.

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Department of Commerce  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Western Area Power Administration