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**CALFED RELEASES FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL
 DOCUMENTATION FOR BAY-DELTA IMPROVEMENTS**

SACRAMENTO – The CALFED Bay-Delta Program today released its Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for restoring ecological health in the Bay-Delta, providing a reliable water supply, improving water quality, and fixing the levee system in the Delta.

“The final document is the result of five years of unprecedented collaboration among State and Federal agencies and stakeholders, and it offers improvements for water suppliers, agriculture, business and the environment,” stated CALFED acting Executive Director Steve Ritchie. CALFED expects the document to be certified by State and Federal lead agencies after a 30 day waiting period.

On June 9, Governor Gray Davis and Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt released an outline of actions to solve the most pressing aspects of California’s water supply, reliability, and environmental problems in an historic plan entitled, “California’s Water Future – A Framework for Action.” The final EIS/EIR details this long-term plan and identifies a strategy for implementing it. State and Federal representatives continue to meet with members of the public to discuss how the plan will be implemented.

Once certification has taken place and the Record of Decision signed, implementation and subsequent environmental review for site-specific projects will begin. The first stage of implementation is scheduled over the next seven years and will build the foundation for long-term actions.

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

- more -

**CALFED RELEASES FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION FOR
BAY-DELTA IMPROVEMENTS, p. 2**

The document proposes strategies for improvements in four inter-related areas consisting of ecosystem health, water quality, levee system integrity, and water supply reliability

Copies of the final EIS/EIR and appendices are posted on the CALFED web site at <http://calfed.ca.gov>. It is also available on CD-ROM and as a print version. The document's availability was also announced in the Federal Register today.

The CALFED Program began work on developing a long-term plan for fixing the Bay-Delta in May 1995 in cooperation with environmental, urban, and agricultural interests. Several thousand comments were received on the alternative solutions contained in the draft programmatic EIS/EIR that helped shape the final document released today.

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