



1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, California 95814

(916) 657-2666
FAX (916) 654-9780
<http://calfed.ca.gov>

For Immediate Release
Aug. 17, 2001

Contact: Jim Nickles
(916) 798-9853

San Joaquin Valley Communities Address Environmental Justice of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program

DELANO, Kern County – Representatives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program will join San Joaquin Valley residents at an Aug. 29 workshop that will examine whether the CALFED agencies' ambitious ecosystem and water-management plans will help or hurt the region's minority and disadvantaged communities.

The public workshop, organized by CALFED agencies in conjunction with the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water, is scheduled from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Delano Civic Center, 1009 Eleventh Ave.

Residents and community groups will hear from state and federal officials about how their agencies' ecosystem, water-supply and water-quality programs will benefit the San Joaquin Valley. Residents will also have a chance to comment on whether those programs could have an adverse impact on their lives.

Martha Guzman, legislative analyst for the UFW and a member of the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water, encourages San Joaquin Valley farmworkers, community leaders, water-district representatives and others with a stake in water issues to attend the session. She says the region is particularly concerned about the quality and availability of water supplies, and about the possible conversion of farmland into habitat.

Spanish-language translators will be at the workshop for participants who don't speak English.

In the CALFED Record of Decision, a 30-year strategic plan adopted last year, state and federal agencies committed to identifying activities that may have a disproportionate impact on minority, low-income, Tribal or other populations, and to take actions to reduce those impacts.

-more-

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

“The workshop represents an opportunity for public participants to get involved and provide input regarding integration of environmental justice in the CALFED program,” says Dan Wermiel, the CALFED environmental justice coordinator.

CALFED program staff is conducting environmental-justice workshops around the state. A workshop in North Richmond on Aug. 15 attracted some 75 participants. Other sessions will be scheduled in Southern California, the Delta region, and the Sacramento Valley.

CALFED agencies will use testimony from the workshops to develop an environmental-justice element for their ecosystem and water-management projects.

“You know better than we do how to address these issues,” CALFED Director Patrick Wright told participants at the Richmond workshop. “We need to hear from you here today and in our other workshops.”

For more information about the workshops or the CALFED environmental-justice initiative, contact Dan Wermiel at (916) 657-3649. For information on the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water, contact Martha Guzman at (916) 341-0612.

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is not a government agency. It is a cooperative effort of more than 20 state and federal agencies to improve the quality and reliability of California’s water supplies while restoring the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary to ecological health. The CALFED Record of Decision, a 30-year strategic plan adopted in August 2000, outlines more than \$8 billion in expenditures in the first seven years for water-supply, water-quality, levee and environmental improvements.

NOTE FOR NEWS MEDIA: Call Jim Nickles at (916) 798-9853 for the workshop agenda or directions to the Delano Civic Center.

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