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IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Sacramento – The leadership of five federal agencies and two state agencies today signed the legal document that lays out the long term state/federal plan for providing water security to meet California’s growing needs, while at the same time restoring the California Bay Delta ecosystem from decades of environmental degradation. The plan is designed to ensure that environmental factors are addressed when investing in California’s water future.

“This plan reflects the very best thinking of the entire water community, including farmers, environmentalists and urban water users,” said Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt. “This implementation plan will fund the largest ecosystem restoration in the country, and will improve water quality and supply reliability for over 22 million Californians. It sets a precedent for how our nation can balance environmental protection and economic growth.”

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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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“The Calfed plan sets a bold and decisive new course for California’s economy and environment,” Governor Gray Davis of California said. “By taking a balanced, responsible approach to water management, we can build a framework that benefits California’s environment, economy, and urban and agricultural water users.”

In addition to Secretary Babbitt, four federal agency leaders were signatories to the ROD, including: Secretary of Commerce Norman Mineta; Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol Browner; Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Richard Rominger; and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Joseph Westphal.

State signatories to the ROD were Mary Nichols, Secretary for Resources and Winston Hickox, CalEPA Secretary.

The legal document signed today is an official Record of Decision and Certification (ROD) for the CALFED Bay-Delta Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and Report (EIS/EIR). This represents the culmination of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process.

Public and stakeholder participation played a critical role in the process of developing this implementation plan for Calfed. The Calfed agencies evaluated over 11,000 individual comments and heard testimony from over 800 people at 16 hearings in the EIS/EIR process, which concluded in July. Intensive stakeholder outreach continued on the following months leading up to completion of the ROD.

The ROD will be available on the CALFED website at <http://calfed.ca.gov>. Printed versions will be available on Friday, September 1.

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