



March 2001

CALFED Meets First Year Goals And Commitments

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program met all of its commitments for the year 2000, and has an approved budget of over \$800 million for the first year of implementation.

“I applaud CALFED’s achievements. CALFED is on track to meet its milestones, setting a firm foundation for a balanced approach to solving the way California manages its water,” said California Resources Secretary Mary Nichols.

The CALFED Agencies also approved all of the end-of-year milestones and commitments established in the Framework Agreement and Record of Decision announced last summer by Governor Davis and DOI Secretary Bruce Babbitt. The Program’s accomplishments include:

- Awarding over \$200 million from Proposition 13 short-term water supply and water quality improvements.
- Developing an innovative Environmental Water Account to improve conditions for Delta fisheries while providing assurances of water supply reliability for Delta exporters.
- Establishing a single blueprint for environmental restoration in the Bay-Delta.
- Signing an agreement with local partners to plan and evaluate the Sites Reservoir storage project in Sacramento Valley.

“We understand that our credibility depends upon meeting the aggressive milestones and commitments in the plan,” said CALFED Director Patrick Wright, “and we intend to deliver.” ■

Local Partnership to Study Sites

California Secretary for Resources Mary Nichols recently joined state and federal officials, legislators, and local water policy leaders to establish a partnership to study the feasibility of the Sites Reservoir west of Maxwell in Colusa County.

The Sites Reservoir project has the potential to decrease water diversions on the Sacramento River during critical fish migrations, greatly increase the reliability of supplies for a significant portion of the Sacramento Valley, and provide storage and operational benefits for other CALFED programs including Delta water quality and the Environmental Water Account.

State and Federal CALFED agencies and local water interests have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to plan for the study. The parties have agreed to an open planning process to objectively evaluate planning issues in order to determine if Sites Reservoir-- or other north-of-the-Delta off-stream reservoir alternatives-- can be implemented in an environmentally sound manner.

Local water interests will participate directly in the planning work. One or more subsequent agreements will be required to specify the details of the environmental review. Future planning agreements will address operation of off-stream storage north of the Delta in combination with other water supplies, groundwater, water exchanges, water conservation, and other management tools.

A copy of the MOU is available at http://calfed.ca.gov/adobe_pdf/rod/Pg_scans.pdf. ■

Water Use Efficiency Program Grant Process

With the final filing date passed for submitting agricultural and urban use efficiency grant proposals to the Water Use Efficiency (WUE) Program, the evaluation process begins.

In all, 116 proposals were submitted, and a panel of over 35 people from agricultural, urban, and science backgrounds will begin the review. The target date for the first recommendations is late March.

CALFED held public meetings to explain the proposal process and provide other information related to WUE implementation. A copy of the Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) is available on the CALFED web site at: www.water.ca.gov/grants-loans/wue%20proposal.pdf.

For general WUE questions, contact Tom Gohring at (916) 327-1645 or gohring@water.ca.gov, or for questions directly related to the PSP, contact Marsha Prillwitz at (916) 327-1645 or marshap@water.ca.gov. ■

CALFED Watershed Program Enters Selection Process

The CALFED Program, cooperating with the Department of Water Resources, is considering proposals for community-based watershed management projects in California that support the Bay-Delta system.

In total, 158 applications were received. The process involves two steps: first was submittal of concept proposal, and second will be selection from the concepts for full proposal development. The full Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) is available on the CALFED web site at: www.baydeltawatershed.org.

Five informational workshops were held across the state to explain the PSP and offer other assistance to applicants.

Key Dates to follow:

March 10 – Notification of selection of concept proposals.

April 28-May 18 – Review of full proposals.

Early June – Watershed Work Group recommendations forwarded to the CALFED Policy Group.

Questions about the Watershed PSP should be directed to John Lowrie at the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, (916) 657-2666. ■

CALFED Approves Restoration Projects for 2001

The CALFED Policy Group, co-chaired by former U.S. Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Hayes and California Resources Agency Secretary Mary Nichols recommended funding approval for 74 restoration projects in the Bay-Delta estuary and its watershed.

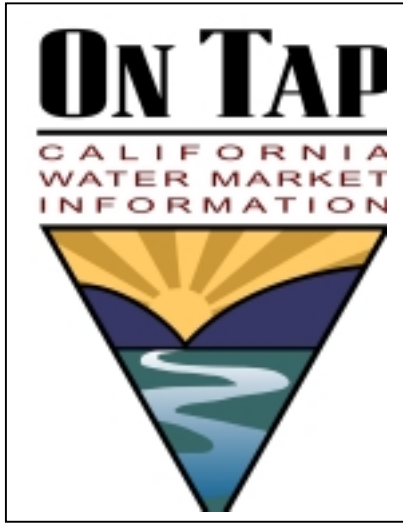
Funding for the projects totals over \$104 million with funds from Propositions 13 and 204, and the Central Valley Project Improvement Act.

Out of 139 proposals received, 74 were selected. The types of projects funded included habitat restoration, education, fish screens, and focused research and monitoring projects designed to provide information that will improve future restoration efforts. For a brief summary of the approved projects, go to: http://calfed.ca.gov/adobe_pdf/funded_proposals.pdf. ■

Water Transfers Web Site Available

On Tap, CALFED's 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.



Features will continue to be added to the web site including: a pending transaction section; detail responses to questions and inquiries; a public forum to exchange information on water market issues; and forecasts of conveyance availability as projected by the Department of Water Resources and the US Bureau of Reclamation. ■

Director's Message

As the new Director of the CALFED Program, I have had the opportunity in the last several months to meet with dozens of stakeholder groups, elected officials, and water leaders throughout the state. I am convinced that most of them want this ambitious, collaborative effort to succeed, but many are skeptical that the CALFED agencies can handle the transition from a planning process to implementing the most comprehensive water management plan in the nation.

Fortunately, the Program has been blessed with strong leadership from Governor Davis and his

senior staff, California Resources Secretary Mary Nichols, the new Department of Interior Secretary Gale Norton, and the state and federal agencies and countless stakeholders now leading key elements of the Program.

As we begin the implementation phase of the Program, I believe that our success will depend largely on three factors:

First and foremost, meeting the aggressive milestones and commitments in the plan. We understand that the credibility of the Program depends upon our ability to meet these commitments, and we intend to deliver.

Second, securing adequate resources to meet our future commitments. We are fortunate that the Governor, the legislature, and the voters of California had the foresight to develop and pass two bond measures, Propositions 204 and 13, to provide a significant down payment on the state's share of funding. But without a strong financial commitment from our federal partners, the Program will not move forward.

Third, strengthening our partnerships with local communities and regional bodies. The Program will only be successful if it supports and builds upon collaborative efforts to address water issues at the local or regional level. The Sacramento River Conservation Area, the Sites Reservoir Planning Memorandum of Understanding, the Yolo Basin Foundation, the Bay Area Blending Strategy, the San Joaquin River Restoration Program, and the Water Quality Exchange Partnership are just a few examples of local groups that are seizing the initiative – with CALFED agencies support and funding – to address the most critical water issues in their regions.

I look forward to working with our staff and partners in building upon these successes in the coming year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Patrick Wright'.

Patrick Wright, Director

NEWS is a publication of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program Public Affairs Office designed to keep the public informed of CALFED activities. For questions, comments, or to be added to the mailing list, write to 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155, Sacramento, California, 95814, or phone (916) 654-7137.

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The mission of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program is to develop and implement a long-term comprehensive plan that will restore ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta system.

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