

# CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA PROGRAM

## WATERSHED PROGRAM Program Plan Year 8

### Implementing Agencies:

Resources Agency  
Department of Conservation  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Department of Water Resources  
Department of Fish and Game  
US Dept of Agriculture- Natural Resources Conservation Service  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Final  
November 19, 2007

# Priorities

The Watershed Program uses its published program plan (July 2000) to direct implementation of the Program. It is the source for program goals, objectives, principles, and desired outcomes, and serves as the underpinning for annual and multiyear work plans. This year there are added considerations: The first stage (Stage 1) of the CALFED Bay Delta Program is scheduled to be completed by December 2007. Planning work to define and initiate Stage 2 of the Program has begun, including the role the Watershed Program will play during this next stage of CALFED Program implementation. The Resources Agency and the Department of Conservation, in coordination with other implementing agencies are developing a strategy to transition the current CALFED Watershed Program toward a "statewide Program". This statewide program will remain responsible for meeting CALFED Bay Delta Program objectives and serve broader needs of watersheds throughout the state. With this in mind, the program is proposing selected actions that are consistent with identified program priorities, but beyond the typical scope of previous year action plans.

The following priorities were originally established for the CALFED Watershed Program in FY 2006-07, and continue to be important priorities. These priorities will guide all implementation activities carried out by the program, with each programmatic action logically contributing toward addressing these priorities.

**Maintain and improve watershed conditions in support of CALFED objectives through enhancing local and regional community watershed resource management capabilities**

Emphasize communities where the Watershed Program and other CALFED Elements have identified the need for additional management capacity (e.g., San Joaquin River watershed).

Assist local efforts to broaden participation in watershed management partnerships to include land management and land use planning agencies.

Support watershed partnerships that have a strong likelihood of achieving multiple objectives, particularly other CALFED program objectives such as those related to the ecosystem, drinking water and water supply reliability objectives.

Encourage and assist watershed partnerships to address long-term organizational and internal financial sustainability beyond support from grants.

**Provide technical and financial support to watershed assessment, planning, monitoring and performance measurement activities that provide information related to the achievement of CALFED objectives.**

Support partnerships that link science-based assessment and monitoring with management and restoration in an adaptive management process.

# Accomplishments

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## Maintain and improve watershed conditions in support of CALFED objectives through enhancing local and regional community watershed resource management capabilities

**06-07 Task- i.** The fourth Partnership Seminar will be offered. The Seminar will be conducted in Riverside, California in October 2006. This Seminar is the last to be carried out during Stage 1 of program implementation. In addition to the full Partnership Seminar, a series of 2-3 day Stewardship workshops in local venues within the solution area will be conducted to provide direct technical assistance to specific watershed communities.

**Accomplishment-** The watershed program conducted the fourth Watershed Partnership Seminar during October, 2006. This seminar was held in Riverside CA. The seminar provided a two-week workshop to about 40 individuals with diverse interests throughout the southern California region. Grantees learned strategies and tools for working effectively in community-based and locally led watershed management. They gained hands-on experience in the skills to develop relationships, leadership, creativity, science, assessment, plant and animal ecology, and modeling to sustain healthy watersheds. The Watershed Partnership Seminar has been an important means to help implement the Program's commitment to provide technical and financial support for effective local management of watersheds affecting the Bay-Delta system in ways that enhance local partnerships to help achieve CALFED's overall objectives.

One 3 day seminar was conducted in Amador County to assist local government in addressing water and watershed management issues as a part of the county's general plan update.

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**06-07 Task ii.** Web network/training module for seminar graduates: As a follow up to the Seminars, the Program is developing a series of web based training courses. The multiple courses will provide in depth training to the 150 graduates of the seminars and help strengthen the network of watershed managers that understand the Bay Delta linkages. The training will be available at no cost on the web. The online training system will also include a technology exchange bulletin board for graduates to communicate with each other and with the Program about watershed management issues within their communities.

**Accomplishment-**The Program has developed a Learning Management System (LMS) that provides follow-up support and networking among the partnership seminar graduates and CALFED staff, advanced on-line training modules on topics including capacity building and education, watershed assessments and watershed management planning and others, and a reference library. The LMS also tracks performance of graduates relative to implementing the Program Plan, through anecdotal surveys conducted periodically by the Program. The LMS is currently housed at the CALFED Bay Delta Program server.

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**06-07 Task iii.** Department of Conservation Watershed Coordinators (DOC) Grant Program. DOC has conducted a grant program supporting watershed coordinators for the past several years. FY2006-07 is the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final year for the set of existing grants funded by the CALFED Watershed Program. These grants will be managed to completion.

**Accomplishment-** 48 Contracts completed by the end of fiscal year 06-07. 30 new watershed stewardship groups or working groups were established and over \$17M in outside funding was obtained by the watershed coordinators for additional watershed work.

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**06-07 Task iv.** Watershed Health Indicators: Implementing agencies will continue to work with the Resources Agency and others to help define a set of tracking indicators for broad use as part of the State's Watershed Action Plan.

**Accomplishment-** In February 2006, the Steering Committee of Deputy Directors agreed, upon recommendation of a technical subcommittee, to adapt a USEPA model for reporting on ecological health as a framework for assessing watershed health in California. This framework builds on existing assessment and monitoring programs, and will provide a way to compare watershed conditions across regions and may help to look collectively at state program performance. Results will be used to recommend more cost-effective monitoring.

The Resources Agency, SWRCB, OEHHA, DWR and CALFED staff are working with other SC participants to 1) define state interests for use in this framework, 2) inventory how existing indicator, monitoring and performance measurement for individual state programs fit into this framework, 3) work with CALFED scientists to explore potential socio-economic indicators to use in this framework, and 4) coordinate with regional groups.

The current program grant solicitation being implemented by DWR includes a priority to conduct valuation of the watershed approach towards better resource management and the use of watershed health indicators has been proposed as a way to demonstrate the value of the approach. Projects may be funded to help achieve this program activity.

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**Provide technical and financial support to watershed assessment, planning, monitoring and performance measurement activities that provide information related to the achievement of CALFED objectives.**

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**06-07 Task i.** Grant Program: The fourth round of Watershed Program grants was awarded at the end of FY 2005-06. DWR, with assistance from the RA will manage those projects during FY 2006-07. Involvement with prior awarded projects managed by the SWRCB will also continue throughout the year, with many of those projects to be completed during the year. The Program will work with the Subcommittee and IWAT to develop the next Solicitation for Proposals, and with DWR to determine the sequence and schedule for the next round of grants.

**Accomplishment-** DWR with assistance from RA is currently managing 28 projects awarded grants at the end of 05-06. DWR developed a new Solicitation for Proposals with awards September 2007. Approximately \$10 million will be made available for grants through this current process.

**Accomplishment- (From previous grant cycles)-** 29 watershed program projects funded with

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Proposition 13 funds in the 2002 grant program administered by the State Water Resources Control Board were completed or nearing completion by June 2007. There were 9 projects where the primary activity was to develop a watershed assessment, 10 to develop watershed management plans, 7 that were primarily capacity building and education projects, and 3 that were primarily implementation actions. Nearly all 29 had multiple activities that met multiple program objectives.

**Performance measure-** Continual increase in the number of watersheds and the square miles in which there are completed watershed assessments.

**Target-** Assessments completed for 80% of the Bay-Delta solution area

**Progress 06-07-** During the year, the 9 projects that completed watershed assessments covering a total of approximately 3,660 square miles. These included watersheds that provide important sources of water supply and water quality to the Bay-Delta system, and have high quality ecosystems including fish habitat. An example is the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Assessment project that was completed by the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority. This project addressed the programs water quality and water supply objectives by assessing the risks and potential degradation of water quality in a watershed that supplies water directly to the Bay-Delta and provides drinking water to a major urban area in the Bay.

**Progress to date-** 24,197 square miles or 29.5% of the CALFED solution area have some form of watershed assessment.

**Performance measure-** The extent of watershed management plans completed within the Bay delta solution area.

**Target-** Watershed management plans completed for 80% of the Bay-Delta Solution Area

**Progress 06-07-** 7 projects completed or underway covering a total of approximately 3,008 square miles.

**Progress to date-** 19,348 square miles with watershed management plans or approximately 23.5% of the CALFED solution area.

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**06-07 Task ii.** The base budget for CDF in 2006/07 will be used to support technical assistance and outreach activities that provide information on issues concerning the impacts of wildfires and forest management on watershed health to watershed groups and CALFED agencies. Supported activities include: developing and distributing GIS data layers for vegetation, fire, fuels, and timber harvest plans; provide information on post-fire erosion; maintaining a Watershed Resources web site for disseminating [new and existing] GIS data layers and technical reports for watershed analysis. CDF will also support the development of a Reference Watersheds database that identifies and characterizes watersheds with minimal disturbance. An emphasis will be placed on watersheds that flow into the Bay delta system.

**Accomplishment-** Volume II of the California Watershed Assessment Manual (CWAM) neared completion. If and when completed it will provide details on more technical watershed assessment approaches, as a supplement to Volume 1 of the CWAM.

In the past year, California Dept. of Forestry (CDF) began the systematic capture of Timber Harvesting Plans (THPs) in GIS for the northern portion of the CALFED Solution Area. CDF has spatially captured at least ten-years of THP history for most of the rest of the state. CDF develops these spatial databases, updates them over time, and makes them available to any party. THP history is an important input for

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watershed assessment. .

The CDF's Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) provided technical assistance to a number of groups conducting watershed assessments funded through the CALFED Watershed Program. These watershed groups include the Millerton Watershed Association, the Butte Creek Watershed Council, and the American River Watershed Council. Support was provided both in the use of GIS data layers that are developed and maintained by FRAP and on resources assessment issues. Evaluating sources of sediment and interpreting GIS layers for vegetation and fuels were common areas where support was provided.

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**06-07 Task iii.** Grantee Conference- A retrospective conference of watershed program grant work will be considered. The conference will emphasize lessons learned, outcomes of projects, and contributions to the Bay-Delta system. Past and current grantees will be asked to present information related to their work, and describe contributions made to the Program objectives through implementation. The information gathered from this conference will be used to help evaluate the performance and progress of the program, identify future program priorities, and provide input on the design of future grant cycles and directed actions. DWR will be the lead for organizing and supporting this conference.

**Accomplishment-** DWR carried out a conference in May 2007 for their current grantees. The conference provided an opportunity for project managers to interact and transfer information on work being conducted by each of the 28 funded projects. The conference was held at the Sierra Friends Center near Nevada City, CA.

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**06-07 Task iv.** During the coming year the Program will carry out, along with the Department of Conservation, an evaluation of the Watershed Coordinators Program. The evaluation will focus on clarifying and quantifying the contribution that the Coordinators Program has made toward achieving Bay Delta Program goals and objectives, particularly the capacity building objectives of the Watershed Program. The evaluation is scheduled for completion by December 1, 2006. If the evaluation results are positive, efforts will be made to identify potential sources of funding or support to continue implementation of the Coordinator Program. (See also- Action Aiii, above)

**Accomplishment-** Watershed Program staff, with the cooperation of DOC, conducted a review of the Watershed Coordinator Program effort funded by the CALFED Watershed Program. A draft report has been developed, which includes recommendations on steps to improve the programs contribution to Bay Delta program goals and objectives. Work is underway by the RA and DOC to identify potential sources of funding or support to continue implementation of the Coordinator Program.

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**06-07 Task v.** The Program will continue its effort to broaden and strengthen inclusion of good science in Program implementation. That will include establishing a technical group of experts and scientists. The group will help investigate several key questions developed by the Program and the Science Program, regarding the relationship of watershed management and watershed functions to the goals and objectives of CALFED, and how best to track that relationship relative to Program implementation.

**Accomplishment-**This activity was delayed pending reorganization of Watershed Program.

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**06-07 Task vi.** The Program will continue to provide technical assistance support through staffing 3.1 positions within DWR and one position within the California Dept. of Food and Agriculture. The desired functions for each position will be developed with regionally appropriate descriptions after obtaining

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advice from IWAT and the Subcommittee.

**Accomplishment-** DWR and CDFA provided assistance to community based programs as described in this task. An additional 1py of technical assistance was provided by RA staff to community based programs operating within the solution area.

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**06-07 Task vii.** Implementing agencies have been asked by the Resources Agency to provide funding to continue support for the Natural Resource Project Inventory (NRPI), managed through the UC Davis ICE Program. Financial support will allow NRPI to begin the process of developing GIS displays of projects within the Inventory.

**Accomplishment-** RA provided \$60,000 of CALFED Watershed Program funds toward the total needed to support NRPI. Additional funding was provided by the Coastal Conservancy and other RA managed accounts. As a result, NRPI will be able to continue operations for another three years.

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**06-07 Task viii.** After consultation with the Subcommittee, the Program may elect to arrange for regional discussions regarding the makeup and functions of a potential Statewide Watershed Program and other topics of potential interest to the State and/or Regional and local interests. The format, sequencing and implementation of these discussions would be developed through interactions with the Subcommittee, advice from IWAT, and conversations with multiple regional entities in the state.

**Accomplishment-** Action delayed pending reorganization of Watershed Program and establishment of a new Public Advisory Committee. See planned action v. in workplan for 07-08

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**06-07 Task ix.** The Program will provide support as needed to assist with a joint project of the Resources Agency, Academia, and the US Forest Service to assess and monitor the effects of the Sierra Framework Management actions on watersheds. This project will provide support to implement adaptive management in the Sierra Nevada National Forests, as well as other National Forests in the state as appropriate.

**Accomplishment-** No progress or action on this task

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# Activities

Activities of the Program in FY 2007-08 are intended to address the program priorities listed above. Some upcoming activities are designed to emphasize one or more of the priorities, and therefore we present them under primary headings.

## **A. Maintain and improve watershed conditions in support of CALFED objectives through enhancing local and regional community watershed resource management capabilities**

- i. As a follow up to the program's completed Partnership Seminar series, a set of 2-3 day Stewardship workshops in local venues within the solution area will be conducted to provide direct technical assistance to specific watershed communities.
- ii. Web network/training module for seminar graduates: As a follow up to the Seminars, the Program has developed a series of web based training courses. The multiple courses will provide in depth training to the 150 graduates of the seminars and help strengthen the network of watershed managers that understand the Bay Delta linkages. The training will be available at no cost on the web. The online training system includes a technology exchange bulletin board for graduates to communicate with each other and with the Program about watershed management issues within their communities.
- iii. Support for Watershed Coordinators: The Department of Conservation (DOC) has conducted a grant program supporting watershed coordinators for the past several years. In FY2007-08 the program will continue, using CALFED Watershed Program funds. With limited funds available, this continuing effort will likely be smaller in scope and more directly focused on management support in watersheds of critical importance to the bay delta system.

## **B. Provide technical and financial support to watershed assessment, planning, monitoring and performance measurement activities that provide information related to the achievement of CALFED objectives.**

- i. Grant Program: DWR has completed a process to solicit, evaluate and select grant projects that will help pursue current program objectives. Decisions on grant awards were made September, 2007.
- ii. The Program will continue its effort to broaden and strengthen inclusion of good science in Program implementation. That will include establishing a technical group of experts and scientists. The group will help investigate several key questions developed by the Program and the Science Program, regarding the relationship of watershed management and watershed functions to the goals and objectives of CALFED, and how best to track that relationship relative to Program implementation.
- iii. The Program will continue to provide technical assistance support through staffing 2 positions at the Resources Agency, 3.1 positions within DWR and one position within the California Dept. of Food and Agriculture.
- iv. The Department of Conservation will issue a Request for Proposals for a new Proposition 50- funded Watershed Coordinator Grant Program in late 2007. The grants will again be intended to fund coordinators for approximately 50 watersheds within the Calfed Solution Area for three years. As with the previous grant program, grantees must demonstrate completion of work supporting Calfed programs and other state water-related programs. It is anticipated that grant agreements will be completed

by late Feb 2008. The DOC currently has \$1 million available for implementation of this activity

- v. With advice from a newly formed Watershed advisory committee, the Program is arranging for regional discussions regarding the makeup and functions of a Statewide Watershed Program and other topics of potential interest to the State and/or Regional and local interests. The format, sequencing and implementation of these discussions would be developed through interactions with the Subcommittee, advice from agencies, and conversations with multiple regional entities in the state.
- vi. The State Water Board has approximately \$6 million in Proposition 50 CALFED Watershed funds they plan to award this fiscal year. The State Water Board was appropriated \$20 million in FY 03-04 for the CALFED Watershed Program. The Water Boards solicited projects as part of the 2003 Consolidated Grants and awarded approximately \$14 million of the funds. The associated resources to manage the solicitation/selection and implementation of the projects were expended leaving inadequate resources to conduct another solicitation. Options for awarding of the funds must take into consideration that there are no remaining staff resources to implement the program. The Water Boards must therefore leverage other grant processes for staff resources, or re-direct from another program to manage/implement the selected option. The Water Board may also seek assistance with managing the projects from the CALFED Watershed Program staff. A subgroup of the IWAT developed a suite of recommended projects to be supported with these funds.

The recommended projects will be presented to the State Water Board at its December 4, 2007 Board meeting. Staff will seek authorization to complete the detail project description and scope of work that will be released to request proposals to implement the selected projects, and enter into grant agreements with the selected respondent.

If the recommended projects are approved by the Water Board, staff will work with the IWAT subgroup to develop the detailed descriptions and scope of the projects. The projects will be circulated with a request for proposals. The IWAT subgroup will review the proposals and select the projects with the most qualified respondent. The Water Board's Deputy Director will be authorized to issue grants to implement the projects.

The State Water Board may direct staff to modify the proposal or to explore other options. Staff would implement the State Water Board's direction.

## Other Activities

As both the adjustments within the CALFED Program develop and as a means to transit from a Bay-Delta Watershed Program to a Statewide Program the Program's implementing agencies may undertake additional tasks or activities to address current Program priorities. These additional activities when identified, may be carried out by direct agency action, contracted work, or focused solicitations.

- i. The Resources Secretary has authorized the formation of a State Watershed Advisory Committee. This committee is functioning to advise the Resources Secretary and implementing agencies during creation of a "Statewide Watershed Program". The committee will receive staff and operational support from the CALFED Watershed Program and the Department of Conservation.

## Implementation Approach

- i. The Interagency Watershed Advisory Team (IWAT) will periodically convene to advise the program and the implementing agencies on implementation of the program. IWAT advises on a broad array of issues including grant program focus, priorities, and review criteria; identification of directed actions; and coordination of technical and policy support for watershed management.
- ii. Watershed Subcommittee: The participation of the public in the watershed program has been a primary strength of the Program. With the proposed transition toward a statewide focus there is a need to redefine how this public involvement will continue, and the relationship to other efforts, including integrating with and supporting "the State's 18 Month Watershed Action Plan" and the Deputies Steering committee. The program, working with the new Watershed Advisory Committee and agencies, will evaluate options and develop a revised model that seeks to capture the many benefits demonstrated to date while meeting the needs of management and decision processes that emerge around a statewide effort.





# Budget

## Funding by Agency

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Watershed</b> (\$ in Thousands)</p>	Resource s Agency	DWR	DOC	SWRCB	CD F	Total
Current Year (07-08) appropriations for Watershed program Implementation						
<p style="text-align: center;">Prop 50</p>	\$794	\$948	\$1400			\$3142
Prop 13						
F						
Reappropriation of Previous Year Funding				\$5900		
<p style="text-align: center;">Prop 50</p>						
Prop 13						
F						

