Federal Authorization Legislation
CALFED Bay-Delta Program Staff Summary
February 28, 2002

H.R. 3208 (Calvert): Western Water Security Enhancement Act: This bill authorizes funding through the Secretary of the Interior for the implementation of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program to achieve increased water yield and environmental benefits, as well as improved water system reliability, water quality, water use efficiency, watershed management, water transfers, and levee protection. The Federal share of CALFED program costs and expenses is specified. It also prescribes the process for authorizing appropriations for the Federal share of the costs of implementing program elements set forth in the record of decision in order to maintain balanced implementation in all program areas. Provides for the creation of the Water Security Board and directs the Secretary of the Interior and the State of California to develop a proposal to establish this Board to manage CALFED program operations and to otherwise provide for the long-term implementation of the program.

Status: Passed Resources Committee. May be taken up on the House floor after March 15, 2002.

S. 1768 (Feinstein): CALFED Bay-Delta Authorization Act: Approves the Record of Decision. Authorizes the Secretary to implement Stage 1 (projects and programs planned for the first seven years) subject to environmental review and approval under Federal and State law and which has been certified by the CALFED Policy Group to be consistent with the Record of Decision. Requires specific congressional authorization for any projects and acquisitions with a Federal share in excess of $10 million. Requires the Federal agencies to: (1) coordinate their activities with the state agencies; (2) cooperate with local and tribal governments and the public; and (3) implement the Program using the best available scientific information and scientific review. Directs the Secretary and the Federal agency heads to operate under the CALFED Bay-Delta Program Implementation MOU until a permanent governing structure is developed with California counterparts. Sets forth authorization and reporting requirements for construction and acquisition activities where the Federal share exceeds $10 million.

Status: Hearing pending in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee

H.R. 2404 (Miller): California Water Quality and Reliability Act of 2001: Amends existing law to extend through FY 2006 the authorization of appropriations for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Program's governance and administration. Directs the Secretary to carry out a California Water Supply Program, authorizing the Secretary to carry out certain surface water storage feasibility and environmental studies. Directs the Secretary to: (1) develop and implement a formal environmental restoration program under the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, requiring specified performance objectives for fish and wildlife in and around the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers; and (2) manage the timing and quantities of water exports from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Status: Held in Subcommittee on Water and Power.