

Environment California Presentation to Southern California Water Dialogue

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Introduction

- ◆ At a crossroads in California water policy
- ◆ Major questions surrounding supply exist at the local, regional and statewide level
- ◆ Bay-Delta ecosystem in serious trouble
- ◆ Major contaminants such as MTBE and perchlorate compromise drinking water sources on a mass scale

Topics of Discussion

- ◆ CALFED BDPAC Drinking Water Subcommittee
 - ★ overview and update
- ◆ Environment California Safe Drinking Water Program
- ◆ *'Down the Drain'* - 6 Cases of Groundwater Contamination that have Wasted California's Water

CALFED Drinking Water Subcommittee

- Objective

‘Continuously improve source water quality that allows for municipal suppliers to deliver safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water that meets and, where feasible, is better than applicable drinking water standards.’

Bay-Delta Drinking Water – Issues

- Bay-Delta provides drinking water to 22 million Californians
- Bay-Delta Ecosystem is in trouble:
 - ◆ Sources of Contamination
 - ◆ Contaminants
 - ◆ Impacts of Contamination

Bay-Delta Drinking Water – Solutions

- Reduction and maintenance of pathogen loadings in source waters to required levels
- Reduction of TOC and Bromide levels to avoid production of harmful levels of DBPs
- Specific targets
 - ◆ Bromide, TOC
 - ◆ Equivalent Level of Health Protection

Equivalent Level of Health Protection

- Decision Tree

Environment California Safe Drinking Water Program

- Prevention
- Polluter Pays
- Public Participation

'Down the Drain'

- Six Cases of Groundwater Contamination that have Wasted California's Water
- 70 billion gallons in potential drinking water incapacitated each year due to contamination
- Equivalent to 35% of the water supply just lost from the Colorado River

Legislation

- Water Replacement
- Perchlorate Warning System