

CALFED Bay-Delta Program
Background on End of Stage I Decisions related to Drinking Water Quality

CALFED Record of Decision:

[page 17] “The Water Quality Program includes the following actions:

- ◆ Drinking water parameters – Reduce the loads and/or impacts of bromide, total organic carbon (TOC), pathogens, nutrients, salinity, and turbidity through a combination of measures that include source reduction, alternative sources of water, treatment, storage and if necessary, conveyance improvements such as a screened diversion structure (up to 4000 cfs) on the Sacramento River between Hood and Georgiana Slough. The Conveyance section of this document includes a discussion of this potential improvement.”

[page 24] “The Preferred Program Alternative includes a process for determining the conditions under which any future additional conveyance or water management actions would be taken. The process would include:

- ◆ An evaluation of how water suppliers can best provide a level of public health protection equivalent to Delta source water quality of 50 parts per billion (PPB) bromide and 3 parts per million (ppm) total organic carbon.
- ◆ An evaluation based on two independent expert panels’ reports – one on the Program’s progress toward these measurable water quality goals and the second on CALFED’s progress toward ecosystem restoration objectives, with particular emphasis on fisheries recovery.”

CALFED 10-Year Action Plan:

[page 3] “Complete studies and investigations under way to provide resources that will inform future end of Stage 1 decisions, including: surface storage investigations, regional water quality plans to achieve equivalent levels of public health (ELPH), Franks Tract Pilot feasibility and design, Delta regional ecosystem planning, water quality modeling and conveyance feasibility studies.”

[page 7] “As policymakers are considering the end of Stage 1 decisions for CALFED implementation, new information is becoming available and other significant changes are either occurring or proposed for the Delta in the following areas:

- **Delay in Meeting Water Quality Objectives.** The water quality objectives set out in the ROD have not been met and implementation of significant portions of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program water quality actions have been delayed...”

[Section 4.4 End of Stage 1 Decisions, page 50]

“**Stage 1 Synthesis of Drinking Water Quality Information.** The CALFED ROD established a drinking water quality target of either 50 ug/L bromide and 3 mg/L total organic carbon at Delta drinking water intakes, or an “equivalent level of public health protection” (ELPH). By the end of 2007, implementing agencies SWRCB, DHS, USEPA, in coordination with DWR, will collect and synthesize available drinking water quality information to determine if a Through-Delta facility is a cost-effective way to achieve water quality improvements. This information is currently being gathered through a number of projects, including the development of drinking water conceptual models, performance measures and regional ELPH planning guidance documentation.

ACTION – COMPLETE SYNTHESIS OF DRINKING WATER QUALITY INFORMATION BY DECEMBER 2007. *By the end of 2007, the CALFED implementing agencies will synthesize available water quality information to determine if a Through-Delta facility is a cost-effective way to achieve water quality improvements.*

Water Quality Modeling – The purpose of this process is to determine the expected water quality benefits from the Franks Tract, Delta Cross Channel and Through Delta facility projects. The modeling is being conducted by DWR and coordinated with staff of the Water Quality, Ecosystem Restoration and Science Programs.

This modeling effort is key to the Stage 1 decision related to Through-Delta conveyance. The decision to rely on Through-Delta conveyance will depend partly on the ability of Franks Tract, Delta Cross Channel modifications and/or a Through-Delta facility to help meet water quality needs while maintaining fisheries protection. Likewise, the decision to move ahead with any of these projects will depend on the Delta conveyance decision. If the CALFED agencies choose to reject Through-Delta conveyance, then there will be no need for these other three projects as water quality improvement actions. However, other studies on these projects may indicate that these actions may have Delta fishery benefits, if implemented.

ACTION – COMPLETE WATER QUALITY MODELING. *The water quality modeling is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2007.”*