California's Bay-Delta

The Problem, The Process and The Potential

CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM

Who Cares About the Bay-Delta?

Do you drink water?

Do you care about the environment?

Do you eat fruits and vegetables?

Does your job depend on a strong California economy?

Then YOU care! Read on...

Contents

Letter to Readers 1

You Depend on the Bay-Delta 2

The Problem 3

Reasons to Care 3

What Is CALFED? 4

A New Approach 4

CALFED Problem and Solution Areas 5

Collaboration, Cooperation, Consensus 6

Potential Solutions 7

No Preferred Alternative 7

Long-Term Levee Protection Plan 8

Water Quality Program 9

Ecosystem Restoration Program 10

Water Use Efficiency Program 11

Water Transfers 12

Watershed Management Coordination 13

Storage 15

Conveyance 15

Alternatives at a Glance 16

Getting to a Solution 22

Want to Know More 23

Glossary of Terms 25

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

Spring 1998

CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM

Dear Reader:

Government alone cannot solve the problems facing the Bay-Delta. Active participation and understanding of the issues by all the Bay-Delta interests and the public is the key to success. Already, thousands of Californians have contributed to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. By volunteering time, sharing expertise, expressing an idea and/or casting a vote in support of Prop 204, all have helped shape the solutions being studied today. With the release of the draft programmatic EIS/EIR, each of us has an unprecedented opportunity to get involved in solving the water management and environmental problems of the Bay-Delta.

California's future depends on it!

Sincerely,

Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

Please fill out the comment form in the back of this booklet and tell us what is important to you.

Commonly Asked Questions

What does "Programmatic EIS/EIR" mean?

Due to the size and complexity of the Bay-Delta system — covering nearly the entire state of California — and the conceptual nature of the proposed actions, CALFED is first evaluating impacts and benefits on a very broad or "programmatic" scale. The analysis presented in the programmatic EIS/EIR provides information to decision makers and the public on the range of possible environmental consequences associated with each of the Program alternatives. Site-specific, detailed environmental impact analysis will take place on each action contained in the final Bay-Delta solution once the broad-based plan is approved, but prior to implementation. Since the CALFED Bay-Delta Program consists of both state and federal agencies, its plan must meet the requirements for identifying potential impacts contained in both the state's California Environmental Quality Act (EIR) and the federal National Environmental Protection Act (EIS). Implementation of the solution is expected to take 25 to 30 years.