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METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

February 27, 1996

To: Board of Directors (Bay-Delta Political Advisory Committee--Information)
(Water Planning and Resources Committee--Information)

From: General Manager *W. G. Home*

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Planning and Resources

Subject: CALFED Bay-Delta Alternatives and Process for Developing Evaluation Criteria

RECOMMENDATION(S)

For information only.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On February 15, the CALFED Bay-Delta Program released a list of twenty draft alternatives for a comprehensive Bay-Delta management plan. The Bay-Delta Advisory Council (BDAC) reviewed these alternatives the same day. CALFED will narrow this list of alternatives to between eight and twelve by late March. In May, CALFED plans to reduce the list to between three and five alternatives for inclusion in the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (PEIS/EIR). The PEIS/EIR will yield a preferred long-term plan for the Bay-Delta Estuary.

Currently CALFED has grouped the alternatives into three categories, which emphasize: (1) system reoperation and reliance on existing facilities; (2) a combination of reoperation and new facilities; and (3) new facilities. "Core Actions" common to all alternatives will include ecosystem restoration, demand management, screening or consolidation of diversions, water transfers and marketing, conjunctive use, and levee improvements.

Staff will develop criteria for determining whether any particular alternative under consideration by CALFED meets Metropolitan's requirements as identified in the Integrated Resources Plan (IRP). Staff will present draft criteria to Member Agencies and to your Board for review, input, and approval as described below.

DETAILED REPORT

On February 15, 1996, the CALFED Bay-Delta Program released twenty draft alternatives for a long-term Bay-Delta management plan. The Bay-Delta Advisory Council (BDAC) reviewed the alternatives the same day. By CALFED's definition, an alternative is "a collection of actions or action categories assembled to provide a comprehensive solution to Bay-Delta problems relating to ecosystem health, water quality, water supply, and system vulnerability." These alternatives were developed through a process that: (1) identified *problems* in the Bay-Delta system; (2) defined *objectives* for the management plan; (3) identified *actions* to meet those objectives; and (4) developed *solution strategies* that grouped *actions* into *alternatives*.

CALFED plans to reduce the list of alternatives to between eight and twelve by March 1996, and to between three and five by May 1996. Alternatives in the final "short-list" likely will combine elements from several of the current twenty alternatives.

The completed short-list of alternatives marks the end of Phase One of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and initiates Phase Two (development of the PEIS/EIR, which will yield a preferred long-term plan for the Bay-Delta Estuary).

Overview of CALFED Alternatives

CALFED groups its alternatives into *categories of emphasis*:

- The first group emphasizes system reoperation and reliance on existing facilities. Typical actions in these alternatives include reducing demands, expanding conjunctive use and water transfer programs, pollutant source control, habitat restoration, screening unscreened diversions, and levee improvements.
- The second group emphasizes a combination of reoperating existing facilities and developing new facilities.
- The third group emphasizes new facilities. Options for facilities include isolated or "through-Delta" conveyance structures, modifications of conveyance channels in the Delta, relocating major diversion points, and additional storage reservoirs to the north or south of the Delta.

Common to all alternatives are a number of *Core Actions*, defined as actions "at a specific implementation level that would be included as an element of all CALFED program alternatives." Core Actions include ecosystem restoration, demand management, diversion screening or consolidation, water transfers and marketing, conjunctive use, and levee improvements.

CALFED also has developed principles that any solution must: (1) reduce conflicts in the system; (2) be equitable, solving problems in all identified problem areas; (3) be affordable; (4) be durable, having long-term political and economic viability; (5) be implementable, having broad public acceptance and sound legal authority; and (6) avoid shifting negative impacts from the Bay-Delta to other regions of the State.

CALFED's Process For Refining Alternatives

The current alternatives, taken in isolation, would not yield a fully comprehensive solution. CALFED likely will combine aspects of the current twenty to obtain a comprehensive short-list. CALFED will receive public input over the next three months in order to refine the current twenty into the short-list. This period of public input therefore will be critical.

CALFED expects to follow this schedule:

- **February 26:** CALFED Workshop to review twenty alternatives and facilitate narrowing list of alternatives to eight or ten by late March (completed).
- **April 9-18:** State-wide scoping meetings for input to select short-list of three to five alternatives for inclusion in draft PEIS/EIR. The Southern California public scoping meetings will take place in San Diego on April 16, Los Angeles on April 17, and Bakersfield on April 18.
- **May:** CALFED releases short-list of alternatives for inclusion in draft PEIS/EIR. This would complete Phase One of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.
- **June 1997:** CALFED issues draft PEIS/EIR.
- **January 1998:** CALFED finalizes PEIS/EIR.

Development of Metropolitan's Evaluation Criteria

Metropolitan's Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) has defined a Preferred Resource Mix to meet its service area's needs over the next 25 years. According to this preferred mix, objectives of water supply enhancement, water quality enhancement, environmental protection, infrastructure reliability, and costs of deliveries can be attained within the context of a long-term management plan for the Bay-Delta. Metropolitan's evaluation of CALFED's alternatives therefore will be completed in a manner that applies evaluation criteria consistent with IRP targets.

The following is a brief overview of the issues this evaluation criteria should address:

- **Environmental Protection:** Evaluation criteria will address how an alternative would affect regulatory certainty (i.e., "deal is a deal" policy) and predictability of supplies from the Bay-Delta and whether an alternative would facilitate an ecosystem approach to habitat enhancement. In addition, the criteria should assess the ability to obtain permits for any of an alternative's capital improvement projects.
- **Water Supply Enhancement:** Evaluation criteria will address water supply impacts of particular CALFED alternatives. During a dry year as defined by the Department of Water Resources (average of 1928-1934 hydrologic period), Metropolitan's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) assumes 1.0 million acre-feet of State Water Project (SWP) supplies to Metropolitan from improved Delta conveyance. In a normal weather year, Metropolitan's IRP assumes improved Delta conveyance to yield 1.8 million acre-feet to meet consumptive and storage replenishment requirements. These figures and other analyses in the IRP should serve as the starting point for developing Metropolitan's evaluation criteria regarding supply enhancements on the State Water Project.
- **Water Quality Enhancements:** Evaluation criteria will assess how an alternative would affect ability to meet existing and anticipated future drinking water quality standards along with conjunctive use and reclamation requirements. Issues will include total dissolved solids (TDS) and associated requirements for blending State Water Project deliveries with Colorado River supplies (assumed to be 25-50 percent depending on TDS-level of SWP supplies). The criteria also should analyze the potential reduction of disinfection by-products afforded by each alternative.
- **Infrastructure Reliability:** Evaluation criteria will consider how an alternative improves the ability of Bay-Delta conveyance and delivery infrastructure to withstand natural disasters such as earthquakes or floods. Criteria might involve a target amount of time (e.g., six months) to restore full SWP deliveries through utilization of storage capacity or direct deliveries through the California Aqueduct following a major catastrophic event of an assumed magnitude.
- **Costs:** Evaluation criteria should consider to what degree each alternative allows Metropolitan to meet its rate-setting objectives. A specific test is whether an alternative will allow Metropolitan to keep its incremental SWP costs under \$300 per acre-foot.

Staff suggests the following timeline for developing these criteria in cooperation with Member Agencies. Once your Board considers and approves evaluation criteria, staff will share these criteria with CALFED through its Public Input process.

Staff proposes the following schedule:

- **March 5:** Bay-Delta Political Advisory Committee reviews framework for evaluation criteria and provides input.
- **March 11:** Water Planning and Resources Committee reviews framework for evaluation criteria and provides input.
- **March 15:** Member Agency managers review framework and provide input.
- **March 26:** Bay-Delta Political Advisory Committee considers and approves refined evaluation criteria. Framework will be faxed to Member Agencies for review and input.
- **April 9:** Metropolitan Board considers and approves refined evaluation criteria.
- **Shortly after April 9:** Letter conveying Metropolitan's evaluation criteria is submitted to CALFED in its initial "Scoping Workshop."

Staff will continue its efforts to analyze the CALFED alternatives and will give your Board at its March meeting a detailed analysis of which attributes of CALFED's current alternatives would support Metropolitan's interests in water supply, water quality, infrastructure reliability, environmental protection, and cost.

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