

• **Board of Directors**
Water Planning and Resources Committee

December 14, 1999 Board Meeting

10-6

Subject

CALFED Principles Developed Jointly by Northern and Southern Interests

Description


During recent months, at the invitation of the Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC), Metropolitan Board Members and staff have engaged in discussions regarding CALFED with representatives of RCRC, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, the Southern California Water Committee and the Urban Water Institute. This letter is to report the status and general direction of the discussions. During the months of December and January, we will be providing this information to other stakeholder organizations in Southern California representing the environment, business and local government communities. Upon discussion with the stakeholders, we intend to return to the board in January with a compatible set of principles for action. A detailed report follows in [Attachment 1](#) and the action principles are listed in [Attachment 2](#).

Policy

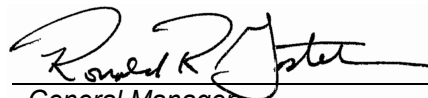
Board Letter 9-3, July 23, 1999: Metropolitan Statement of Needs Regarding CALFED Bay-Delta Program and Board Letter 7-10, January 27, 1998: Legislative Policy Principles.

Fiscal Impact

No fiscal impact.



Deputy General Manager
Timothy H. Quinn
12/2/99
Date



General Manager
12/2/99
Date

[Attachment 1 -- Detailed Report](#)

[Attachment 2 -- CALFED Action Principles](#)

DETAILED REPORT

During the past decade, Southern California water interests have substantially changed their strategies for assuring reliable water supplies to one of making significant investments in reclamation and conservation; maintaining a full Colorado River Aqueduct; and promoting south-of-the-delta storage. At the same time, Southern California has strongly supported, politically and financially, an unprecedented program to restore fisheries in the Bay-Delta watershed. These fundamental changes in approach have created the opportunity for north-south cooperation on statewide water issues that was not possible a few years ago.

Recently, the Regional Council of Rural Counties, a statewide association of county supervisors representing 27 rural California counties, invited Metropolitan and other urban water interests to participate in discussions on common areas of interest related to CALFED. Other participants include representatives of the Santa Clara Valley Water District, the Southern California Water Committee and the Urban Water Institute. All the participants shared concerns that CALFED may not provide adequate benefits for economic interests in the north and south. Generally, the participants discovered that they had much common ground on CALFED related issues.

To summarize these common objectives and interests, the participants developed a detailed set of CALFED action principles (see Attachment 2) intended to assure balanced outcomes in a CALFED solution. Overall, the principles would commit those agencies, if approved by their respective boards, to support activities designed to accomplish three general objectives:

- 1) Improvement in source water quality on a statewide basis;
- 2) Improvement in water supply, protecting the reliability of Southern California supplies and augmenting supplies where necessary in the north; and
- 3) Investments in watersheds to enhance the local environment, provide flood protection and promote better source water quality and improved supplies.

In addition, the principles commit supporting parties to certain guidelines for action designed to assure that the interests of one region of the state are not sacrificed for the benefit of another. These principles include:

- 1) Joint support for the protection of property rights and water rights;
- 2) Joint support for local control of programs which may have important local impacts; and
- 3) Commitment to balanced outcomes that promote the statewide economic interests of California as well as the environment.

These principles are being circulated for discussion and possible approval by the RCRC Board of Directors, the RCRC member agencies (Boards of Supervisors), Southern California Water Committee Board and the governing bodies of the water interests

involved. If adopted, they would be used in joint efforts to help shape the future direction of CALFED. Some concerns regarding discussions among these northern and southern interests have been raised by certain water supply agencies in the Sacramento Valley. Discussions with representatives of these agencies are underway.

**ACTION PRINCIPLES
for the
CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM**

All regions of California need a reliable, affordable, high quality supply of water. Recognizing this, the signatories have come together to develop this expression of principles and expectations related to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. The fundamental premise underlying this effort is the belief that there is enough water in our state to meet California's collective needs if we manage it appropriately for all beneficial uses. Moreover, the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, in our view, is tasked with expanding available water supplies and not developing actions predicated upon continuing to try to reallocate currently available water supplies within a system that is no longer meeting the water supply, water quality and environmental needs of California.

1. Water supply reliability, affordability and quality are of paramount importance in any final CALFED Bay-Delta Program solution. These attributes must proceed with equivalent pace to environmental restoration actions. Implementation of actions should commence immediately upon the Record of Decision for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.
2. CALFED will honor Area of Origin protections to provide water supply solutions in the source areas as part of any CALFED solutions.
3. Water Quality is a critical factor for all classes of water uses. All reasonable/feasible, methods to improve overall system wide (the term "system-wide" hereafter refers to statewide) water quality and specifically consumptive water supply, should be comprehensively evaluated and implemented where feasible and cost effective. CALFED Must implement programs to improve the quality of in Delta and source waters without reducing the available water supply system wide.
4. Water Quality actions and objectives must assume that new federal and state regulatory standards will be imposed which will require higher standards for public health protection for consumptive water quality use. Higher quality water is also required to maximize use of water, management actions such as recycling and groundwater conjunctive use.
5. Conservation and conjunctive water use programs may provide local, regional and statewide benefits across a broad spectrum of environmental and economic interests. Conservation and conjunctive water use programs should be pursued statewide where feasible and should be locally sponsored, support and comply with local groundwater management programs. Furthermore, conservation and conjunctive use projects should be consistent with local water resources plan and ordinances.
6. CALFED must also recognize and incorporate area of origin water needs in their water modeling for any selected solution.
7. CALFED'S solution must recognize that the potential exists to meet some of the Area of Origin water supply needs within the inventory of the existing investor owned hydroelectric facilities. This is particularly true for many of the Sierra Nevada foothill and mountain areas, in which groundwater resources are unreliable sources of water. CALFED should consider:

- a. Data on these projects which has been developed to show local water supply opportunities through reoperation.
 - b. Developing data to demonstrate any potential regional benefits through project reoperation and/or through conjunctive use programs.
8. CALFED'S Watershed Management Program must be emphasized to a greater degree and integrated with the Water Quality and Water Supply Reliability Programs as well as the Ecosystem Restoration Program. Specific improvements in the CALFED Watershed Program should include:
- a. Recruitment of, and assignment of professional staff, with extensive knowledge of complete watershed systems (upper and lower watersheds), to the CALFED Watershed Program.
 - b. Improved coordination between the U.S.D.A. Forest Service and the U.S.D. A. Natural Resources Conservation Services with CALFED staff and the CALFED Watershed Workgroup. Both organizations should provide full-time professional staff with watershed experience to the CALFED Program.
 - c. CALFED Watershed Program funding levels should be increased as follows:
 1. Project planning and program administration.
 2. Funding decisions must be measured against CALFED ecosystem restoration goals through-out the solution area.
 3. Continued funding of CALFED Directed Actions and projects should not crowd out projects in the upper watersheds.
9. Water quality programs should be implemented at the earliest opportunity. Water Quality actions should include evaluation for feasibility, effectiveness and implementation and cost effectiveness, of the following specific actions:
- a. Specific evaluation of a range of delta conveyance alternatives which in conjunction with other water quality improvement actions will help attain water quality standards. The Record of Decision for CALFED needs to include a proposed course of action under implementation within the next 7 years, when through-delta improvements are evaluated for effectiveness in meeting a defined set of performance objectives, including ecosystem, water quality and water supply reliability. If through-delta improvements alone cannot meet the objectives, then CALFED must preserve the ability to implement an appropriately sized Dual Conveyance alternative on a timely schedule consistent with meeting the Program's comprehensive performance objectives.
 - b. Salinity management activities system wide.
 - c. System wide watershed restoration and management programs.

- d. A comprehensive evaluation of delta conveyance, diversion locations, source water improvement actions and water treatment options for areas dependent upon Bay-Delta water in whole or in part.
 - e. Implement optimal through-Delta improvements in Stage One of the CALFED Program. Evaluate their effectiveness in meeting a defined set of performance standards, including for the Ecosystem, water quality and water supply reliability.
 - f. Regional exchange agreements to improve water quality for urban areas relying on Delta water.
10. Water supply reliability and storage is a critical factor for human consumptive uses, agricultural uses, recreational uses, environmental uses and economic uses. All reasonable/feasible methods to improve system wide water supply reliability should be evaluated.
 11. The list of water supply reliability actions should be based upon the assumption that there will be a system wide population growth as estimated by the State Department of Finance.
 12. The list of water supply reliability improvements should include, where feasible and cost effective, the following specific actions. These action should be implemented as part of an integrated package:
 - a. Water conservation and water recycling efforts
 - b. Development of local water supply and water storage projects
 - c. Regional and local conjunctive use projects
 - d. Water transfers
 - e. Increasing storage capacity in existing reservoirs
 - f. Development of off-stream surface storage.
 - g. Reoperation and appropriate ownership acquisition of existing investor owned hydroelectric facilities.
 - h. Watershed actions designed to increase total system wide yield.
 13. Financing and funding should use benefits-based principles and methods to allocate costs of the Bay-Delta Program equitably.
 - a. Federal and state financing for ecosystem actions must be at a continuing level necessary to achieve recovery of the Bay-Delta Ecosystem.
 - b. Financial charges associated with implementation of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program should be commensurate with benefits received and phased to correspond to improvements-system wide.

- c. New and /or improved facilities should be paid for by beneficiaries.
 - d. Access to existing or new storage and conveyance used for environmental purposes must be paid for through public financing.
 - e. An Environmental Water Account as proposed by CALFED must be sufficiently funded with broad based public financing, including funding for assets such as storage, conveyance and purchase options.
 - f. Recognizing the broad based benefits of watershed restoration programs, these programs should be financed from broad based sources including state and federal funds.
14. In order to be successful, CALFED must move in a new direction. The CALFED program must re-engage the participation of all stakeholders in a more positive, constructive process and integrate stakeholder representatives in the near-term and long-term decision making process.
 15. Ecosystem restoration actions should seek to achieve the goals identified in the Strategic Plan for Ecosystem Restoration, but there should not be redirected environmental impacts to other parts of the(system-wide) ecosystem. Furthermore, within the framework of an adaptive management program, ecosystem restoration targets must include a measurable definition of recovery. Ecosystem restoration actions should be carried out as a multi species program wherever possible. Land acquisition or easement acquisition projects must be reviewed and approved by the local government(s) with land use planning regulatory authority in order to be implemented. Furthermore, land acquisition and easement programs should seek to minimize the impact on and /or conversion of private lands to public or non-profit ownership and utilize existing state and federally owned lands first.
 16. All actions taken for ecosystem restoration or other purposes must be consistent with the existing private property and water rights.
 17. Improvements in water supply and quality for all users who rely on the Bay-Delta watershed shall be met concurrently.
 18. The CALFED Final EIS/EIR and ROD should clearly indicate the goals and objectives of the program when fully implemented. These should include the clear implications of full implementation of the CALFED program on Water Quality and Water Supply Reliability on a system-wide basis.
 19. The parties support the implementation of the California 4.4 Plan and River Reoperation to maintain a full Colorado aqueduct at a reasonable cost.
 20. New “environmental” water will not come at the expense of system wide water supply requirements. It should come through increased system capacity including: improved storage, transfers and conjunctive use programs.
 21. The parties support the formation and implementation of an Environmental Water Account (EWA) Program as part of any CALFED Bay-Delta solution. The EWA should attempt to develop symbiotic partnerships with other water users in carrying out water purchases so as to maximize effectiveness of EWA funds as well as develop multiple benefits from water

acquisition and transfer. EWA should be funded through a broad based public finance process. EWA acquisition should be carried out in compliance with criteria based upon the following principles:

- a. Water should be acquired to provide multiple species and multiple use benefits over the broadest geographic area whenever possible.
 - b. Water should be acquired only from willing sellers and in a manner which complies with local water management plans and ordinances.
 - c. There should be no redirected significant environmental or third party impacts associated with the acquisition or implementation of the transfer of the subject water.
 - d. EWA actions will not infringe on efforts to meet local water supply needs.
22. CALFED's Integrated Storage Investigations work should include a comprehensive analysis of reoperation of investor owned facilities to meet local water needs in addition to specific analysis of new off-stream storage facilities within the Sacramento and San Joaquin watersheds.

END