

## **CALFED Bay-Delta Program End of Stage 1 Statement**

1. The CALFED Bay-Delta Program Programmatic Record of Decision (August 28, 2000) (CALFED ROD) outlined a multi-decade program to restore ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta. The CALFED ROD described the first seven years of the program as Stage 1, during which significant investments and actions were projected to attain goals in levee system integrity, water quality, water supply reliability, and ecosystem restoration. The Science Program was also established to provide relevant scientific knowledge and oversight to the CALFED Program.

2. As Stage 1 nears its completion, the State and Federal agencies participating in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program (CALFED Program) initiated a number of processes to evaluate the effectiveness of the Stage 1 activities (e.g., the Water Quality Program Stage 1 Final Assessment evaluating the ability of water providers to meet the CALFED ROD's targets for drinking water quality, the Delta Risk Management Strategy (DRMS) evaluating Delta levees and risks to Delta services, and the Ecosystem Restoration Program end of Stage 1 assessment of restoration activities). A separate process initiated by the agencies to assess the state of the Delta is the Pelagic Organism Decline (POD) scientific inquiry into the continued significant decline in pelagic organisms. In addition, relevant State and Federal agencies initiated the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) process to address endangered species protection and regulatory certainty in water project operations that expire at the end of Stage 1, and the State initiated the Delta Vision process to develop a long-range vision for a sustainable Delta.

3. The Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee (BDPAC) Program Performance and Financing Subcommittee has developed a Final Draft of its CALFED Bay-Delta Program Performance Assessment as an overview evaluation of the performance of the entire CALFED Program. The Final Draft is included as Attachment 1. Although this Final Draft is not an agency document, and awaits final approval by the BDPAC and a formal recommendation to the Secretary and the Governor, the State and Federal agencies believe it serves as a useful reference for gauging Stage 1 performance in conjunction with forthcoming agency assessments.

4. These evaluations are ongoing and are expected upon their completion to provide significant information as well as new direction for the next stage of protecting the Delta and its multiple uses. Even though these evaluations are not complete at this time, the State and Federal agencies believe that there are a number of conclusions that can be drawn from Stage 1. These are as follows:

**Stage 1 Progress:** The CALFED Program has made progress toward meeting its objectives, particularly in areas outside the Delta. Progress within the Delta has been limited. Available funding was lower than expected, the lack of quantifiable objectives leaves unknowns about performance, and many problems that existed at the time of the CALFED ROD still exist, and some new ones such as the POD have surfaced. Research supported by the Science Program

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has also provided improved understanding of the Delta and new kinds of solutions to Delta problems.

**Likely Future Progress:** The continued POD, existing risks to Delta levees, and projected future conditions that will further jeopardize Delta levees are prime reasons to reevaluate the method of Delta conveyance. Since the method of conveyance influences Delta water flow, water quality, ecosystem, and water supply, these elements also need to be reevaluated along with conveyance.

5. The State and Federal agencies intend to continue cooperating in completing the evaluations described above, and the relevant State and Federal agencies will continue their work on the BDCP. In addition, we intend to work together to assess the recommendations of the State's Delta Vision process and will incorporate those recommendations as appropriate as we shape agency activities over the next several years.

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Secretary for Resources

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