

**FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL WATER ACCOUNT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)**

State Clearinghouse # 1996032083
State of California

Co-Lead Agencies:

Lead Agency for the EIS: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation
Lead Agency for the EIR: California Department of Water Resources

Cooperating Agencies:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Marine Fisheries Service
California Department of Fish and Game

ABSTRACT

This EIS/EIR addresses implementation of the Environmental Water Account (EWA) as provided in the CALFED Programmatic EIS/EIR Record of Decision. The EWA consists of two primary elements: (1) assisting fish population recovery for at-risk native fish species; and (2) increasing water supply reliability by reducing uncertainty associated with fish recovery actions. This EIS/EIR analyzes three alternatives, including two action alternatives that involve the acquisition of EWA assets via stored surface water, stored groundwater, groundwater substitution, and crop idling purchases and EWA asset management through source shifting, groundwater storage, and borrowing of State Water Project water. The alternatives differ primarily in actions taken to protect at-risk native fish species and the quantities of assets acquired under each alternative. The EIS/EIR analyzes the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to the physical, socioeconomic, and the natural environment that result from the purchase, storage, and conveyance of EWA assets, and the actions taken to benefit at-risk native fish populations. EWA agencies have incorporated conservation and mitigation measures for asset purchase and management to minimize impacts. Impacts include the timing of release of stored reservoir water on power production and fish; socioeconomic, air quality, and terrestrial wildlife effects due to crop idling; and Delta fish and water quality effects due to the pumping of EWA assets. The EIS/EIR also analyzes the cumulative effects of other water acquisition and land management programs. The CALFED ROD defined the EWA as a 4-year program, unless the EWA agencies agree in writing to extend the program. This EIS/EIR analyzes the EWA program actions through 2007, the end of Phase 1 of the CALFED Program.

This EIS/EIR is prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Bureau of Reclamation NEPA procedures, and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CEQA Guidelines.

The closing date for comments is 30 days from the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register.

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