Appendix E

Mitigation Measures Adopted in the CALFED Record of Decision

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Appendix A
Mitigation Measures Adopted in the Record of Decision

The CALFED Agencies commit to considering and adopting the following mitigation measures where appropriate in development and implementation of project specific actions. The mitigation measures address short-term, long-term and cumulative effects of the CALFED Program. The measures are grouped by section from the impact analysis chapters of the Final Programmatic EIS/EIR.

5.1 Water Supply and Water Management. Potentially significant effects of implementing the Preferred Program on water supply and water management include temporary local water supply interruptions due to turbidity of water during construction of Program facilities, levee construction and maintenance, and habitat restoration activities.

The following mitigation measures will reduce potential effects of implementation of the Preferred Program Alternative on water supply and water management:

1. Use best construction and drainage management practices to avoid transport of soils and sediments into waterways.
2. Use cofferdams to construct levees and channel modifications in isolation from existing waterways.
3. Use sediment curtains to contain turbidity plumes during dredging.
4. Schedule ground disturbing construction during the dry season.

5.3 Water Quality. Implementation of the Preferred Program Alternative may have several potentially significant effects on water quality. These effects include: (1) Releases of inorganic and organic suspended solids into the water column and turbidity resulting from increased erosion during construction, dredging, or drainage of flooded lands; (2) Releases of toxic substances, such as pesticides, selenium, and heavy metal residues, into the water column during construction and dredging and other Program actions; (3) Net increases in salinity if evaporation increases converting irrigated cropland to wetlands; (4) Increased electrical conductivity (a measure of salinity) of water in the Delta; (5) Increases of TOC in river water caused by the increased contact between flowing or ponded water and vegetation or peat soils that would result from conversion of agricultural lands to wetlands and from actions in other Program elements; (6) Increased water temperatures and resultant decreased dissolved oxygen concentrations due to the increased residence time of water in the Delta and from actions in various Program elements; (7) Decreases in in-stream water quality if water use efficiency measures or water transfers reduce diluting flows; (8) Increases in concentrations of constituents of concern if water transfers reduce in-stream flows and deplete river assimilative capacity; (9) Increase in methylation of mercury in constructed shallow-water habitat; (10) Degradation of surface water by the transfer of poorer quality groundwater; (11) Changes in natural flow regimes in areas where new surface storage is built; and (12) Surface storage inundation of toxic material.

The following mitigation measures will reduce potential effects of implementation of the Preferred Program Alternative on water quality:

1. Improve treatment levels provided at municipal wastewater treatment plants to upgrade the quality of the constituents of concern discharged to receiving waters in order to compensate for the reduction in dilution caused by improved water use efficiency. Improved salt management of wastewater inputs to treatment plants could reduce salt concentrations in discharges.
2. Release additional water from enlarged or additional off-stream surface storage, or from additional groundwater storage.
3. Release additional water from storage in existing reservoirs or groundwater basins.
4. Treat wastewater at the source, such as Delta drains, upgrade water treatment processes at drinking water treatment plants and/or provide treatment at the point of use (consumer's tap).
5. Use innovative, cost-effective disinfection processes (for example, UV irradiation, and ozonation, in combination with other agents) that form fewer or less harmful DBPs.
6. Use existing river channels for water transfers and timing the transfers to avoid adverse water quality effects.
7. Use best construction and drainage management practices to avoid transport of soils and sediments into waterways.
8. Use cofferdams to construct levees and channel modifications in isolation from existing waterways.
9. Use sediment curtains to contain turbidity plumes during dredging.
10. Separate water supply intakes from discharges of agricultural and urban runoff.
11. Apply agricultural and urban BMPs, and treat drainage from lands with concentrations of potentially harmful constituents to reduce contaminants. Treat drainage from agricultural lands underlain by peat soils to remove TOC.
12. Relocate diversion intakes to locations with better source water quality.
13. Restore additional riparian vegetation to increase shading of channels and reduce evaporation.
14. Identify and investigate issues regarding beneficial reuse of dredged material, including conducting core sampling and analysis of proposed dredged areas, and implement engineering solutions to avoid or prevent environmental exposure to toxic substances after dredging.
15. Cap exposed toxic sediments with clean clay/silt and protective gravel.
16. Test for mercury in soils and locate constructed shallow-water habitat away from sources of mercury until methods for reducing mercury in water and sediments are implemented.
17. Operate storage facility operations to maintain the frequency, magnitude, and duration of flows necessary to maintain and restore downstream water quality and habitat.
18. Avoid inundation or design solutions to inundation of toxic materials, such as covering with an engineered cap.
19. Schedule ground disturbing construction during the dry season.
20. Follow established and proper procedures and regulations for identifying, removing and disposing of contaminated materials.
21. Utilize the criteria in the Water Transfer Program, in conjunction with existing legal constraints on water transfers, to protect against adverse effects due to water transfers.

The criteria for future water transfer proposals include:

- Water rights of all legal water users must not be impaired.
- Transfers must not harm fish and wildlife resources and their habitats.
- Transfers must not cause overdraft or degradation of groundwater basins, or impair correlative rights of overlying users.

22. Develop new groundwater basin management plans or expand existing groundwater basin management plans, including defining objectives, project boundaries, responsibilities, operation and maintenance specifications and procedures, and conditions under which corrective actions are taken.
23. Reduce or discontinue groundwater pumping.
24. Monitor and test groundwater wells and aquifers.
25. Continue the studies concerning reuse of beneficial Bay dredge material in the Delta for potential water quality impacts related to salinity, metals mobilization, and other environmental and health hazards.
26. Investigate all potential sources of borrow and the cost effectiveness of each source's use for levee rehabilitation and construction, including the use of sediment traps as a source of borrow.
27. Prepare a borrow plan that includes future costs and options for obtaining adequate quantities of borrow needed for implementation of the Levee System Integrity Plan.
28. Modify water conveyance operations, including DCC and south Delta operations. Program implementation will occur in phases to permit new information gained from studies and monitoring to influence changes in facility design and operations.

5.4 Groundwater. Implementation of the Preferred Program Alternative may have potentially significant effects on groundwater. These effects include: (1) Changes in groundwater levels; (2) Increased demand for groundwater supplies; (3) Increased groundwater overdraft; (4) Increased land subsidence; (5) Increased degradation of groundwater quality from contaminant movement, salt-water intrusion, or naturally poor-quality water drawn into the aquifer; and (6) Impacts from groundwater recharge and storage system operations.

The following mitigation measures will reduce potential effects of implementation of the Preferred Program Alternative on groundwater:

1. Create additional groundwater or surface water storage facilities to improve water supply reliability and decrease overdraft.
2. Support voluntary transfers of water from basins with excess supplies.
3. Purchase water rights from willing sellers (including transferring water rights between sectors—for example, from agricultural to municipal uses).
4. Support local groundwater management that reduces overdraft and third-party effects, including reduction or discontinuation of groundwater pumping.
5. Implement conservation measures to reduce demand.
6. Integrate the Ecosystem Restoration Program floodplain restoration efforts with setback levees.
7. Support local and regional efforts to increase water supplies from recycling.

8. Support increased regulations regarding new and existing domestic wells and septic systems.
9. Develop alternative water supplies.
10. Monitor and test groundwater wells and aquifers.
11. Limit new septic tank systems in vulnerable areas.
12. Allow water levels to increase periodically.
13. Import new soil (including dredged spoil) to raise land surface.
14. Support local projects to recharge aquifers.
15. Support local agencies in distributing groundwater pumping over a wide region rather than to a concentrated area to minimize drawdown of the aquifer.
16. Treat extracted groundwater at the well head.
17. Dilute poor-quality groundwater with higher quality water.
18. Support local agencies in developing new groundwater basin management plans or expanding existing groundwater basin management plans, including defining objectives, project boundaries, responsibilities, operation and maintenance specifications and procedures, and conditions under which corrective actions are taken.
19. Temporarily remove the recharge system from service to avoid effects associated with high water tables.
20. Monitor water-level conditions on islands adjacent to flooded Delta islands.
21. Install interception wells at in-Delta storage facilities to control seepage.
22. Line conveyance canals to prevent seepage.
23. Control seepage through pumping and other appropriate measures.
24. Design new levees and improve existing levees to withstand hydraulic stresses and seepage from flooding Delta islands.
25. Utilize the criteria and objectives in the Water Transfer Program, in conjunction with existing legal constraints on water transfers, to protect against adverse effects due to water transfers. The criteria for future water transfer proposals include:
    - Water rights of all legal water users must not be impaired.
    - Transfers must not cause overdraft or degradation of groundwater basins, or impair correlative rights of overlying users.

5.5 Geology and Soils. Implementation of the Preferred Program Alternative may have potentially significant effects on geology and soils. These effects may include: (1) Conversion of agricultural land soils for levee system construction and potential for erosion on outboard slope of levees; (2) Increases in local subsidence from potential increased reliance on groundwater use; (3) Increases in wind and soil erosion and in soil salinity due to fallowed agricultural lands; (4) Increased construction-related short-term soil erosion, and increased sediment deposition and soil compaction; (5) Potential changes in downstream geomorphology from enlarging existing storage facilities and other Program actions; and (6) Ground disturbance, inundation, seepage, and shoreline wind- and wave-generated erosion from new storage facilities and other Program actions.

The following mitigation measures will reduce potential effects of implementation of the Preferred Program Alternative on geology and soils:

1. Monitor groundwater levels and subsidence in areas of increased reliance on groundwater resources and regulate withdrawal rates at levels below those that cause subsidence.
2. Minimize and avoid direct groundwater transfers or groundwater substitution transfers from regions: 1) experiencing long-term overdraft, 2) where subsidence historically has occurred, or 3) where local extensometers indicate that subsidence rates are increasing.
3. Protect flooded Delta island inboard levee slopes against wind and wave erosion with vegetation, soil matting, or rock.
4. Protect exposed soils with mulches, geotextiles, and vegetative ground covers during and after project construction activities in order to minimize soil loss.
5. Implement erosion control measures and bank stabilization projects.
6. Increase sediment deposition and provide substrate for new habitat by planting terrestrial and aquatic vegetation.
7. Measure channel morphology over time to monitor changes and implement erosion control measures where needed.
8. Re-use dredged materials to reduce or replace soil loss.
9. Leave crop stubble from previous growing season in place while fallowing and employ cultivation methods that will cause the least amount of disturbance in order to minimize erosion of surface soils.
10. Limit the salinity of replacement water, relative to local conditions, in water transfers.
11. Ensure that the volume of irrigation water used is sufficient to flush accumulated salts from the root zone.
12. Operate new storage facilities to minimize sediment trapping and increase sediment transport in rivers and tributaries.
13. Retrofit soil-comprised structures to seismic events with shock-absorbing devices and materials in areas of seismic vulnerability, wherever possible.
14. Prepare and implement best construction management plans.
15. Prepare and implement a water quality and soils monitoring program.
16. Prepare and implement construction mitigation plans.
17. Prepare and implement contingency plans for wetland and marshland restoration.
18. Modify storage facility operations to maintain the frequency, magnitude, and duration of flows necessary to maintain and restore downstream habitat.
19. Control boat traffic in order to reduce boat wakes to levels that will not cause levee or bank erosion.
20. Monitor water-level conditions on islands adjacent to in-Delta storage.
21. Install interception wells at in-Delta storage facilities to control seepage.
22. Line conveyance canals to prevent seepage.
23. Control seepage through pumping and other appropriate measures.
24. Design new levees and improve existing levees to withstand hydraulic stresses and seepage from flooding Delta islands.
25. Use cofferdams to construct levees and channel modifications in isolation from existing waterways.
26. Use sediment curtains to contain turbidity plumes during dredging.
27. Investigate the cost effectiveness and safety of using sediment traps as a source of borrow.

5.6 Noise. Implementation of the Preferred Program Alternative may have potentially significant effects on noise. These effects may include: (1) Increased noise from heavy equipment operation during construction; (2) Noise from construction-related traffic along major access and haul routes and construction labor force vehicle traffic; (3) Increased noise from facility operation of spillways, pumping generating plants, and switchyards; (4) Increased noise from automobile or boat traffic associated with recreational use at enlarged reservoirs; and (5) Increased traffic noise from permanently relocated roadways.

The following mitigation measures will reduce potential effects of implementation of the Preferred Program Alternative on noise:

1. Use electrically powered equipment instead of internal combustion equipment where feasible.
2. Locate staging and stockpile areas, and supply and construction vehicle routes as far away from sensitive receptors as possible.
3. Establish and enforce construction site and haul road speed limits.
4. Restrict the use of bells, whistles, alarms, and horns to safety warning purposes.
5. Design equipment to conform with local noise standards.
6. Locate equipment as far from sensitive receptors as possible.
7. Equip all construction vehicles and equipment with appropriate mufflers and air inlet silencers.
8. Restrict hours of construction to periods permitted by local ordinances.
9. Locate noisy equipment within suitable sound-absorbing enclosures.
10. Erect sound wall barriers or noise attenuation berms between noise generation sources and sensitive receptors.
11. Schedule construction activities to avoid breeding seasons of sensitive species and peak recreating use.
12. Locate redirected roadways away from sensitive receptors.
13. Encourage use of public transportation and carpooling for construction workers.
14. Restrict boating speeds or access to areas with sensitive receptors.
15. Conduct project-specific noise analyses for actions with noise impacts.

5.7 Transportation. Implementation of the Preferred Program Alternative may have potentially significant effects transportation. These effects may include: (1) Increasing local traffic flows as the public accesses recreational resources at new storage facilities; (2) Changing traffic flows as roads are temporarily rerouted around construction sites; (3) Relocating or permanently closing roads; (4) Delays and disruptions resulting from detouring traffic as new roadways and railroad bridges are constructed around storage and conveyance facilities; (5) Adding construction vehicles to existing traffic levels, especially on narrow, two-lane local roads with winding routes; (6) Closing two-lane roads to one lane in order to facilitate roadway improvements or relocations associated with the Watershed Program; (7) Impeding or blocking patrol or rescue boats in Delta channels where fish barriers and flow control structures are installed; and (8) Creating safety conflicts by operating large, slow-moving dredging equipment on Delta waterways.

The following mitigation measures will reduce potential effects of implementation of the Preferred Program Alternative on transportation:

1. Provide convenient and parallel detours to routes closed during construction.
2. Allow trains to use existing tracks while bridges are being built.
3. Encourage use of public transportation and carpooling for construction workers.
4. Clearly mark roadway intersections with warnings where visibility is poor in the project vicinity.
5. Provide boat portage or a stationary jib crane.
6. Relocate boat launch facilities.
7. Relocate emergency access roads.
8. Require contractors to follow appropriate state and federal safety protocols.
9. Coordinate dredging and safety precautions with state and local authorities.
10. Schedule construction at times and seasons to minimize delays.
11. Expand public transportation resources and local roadways.
12. Expand public transportation, roads, and highways.
13. Locate roadways in areas with fewer conflicts.
14. Design roadways to avoid or minimize traffic congestion.

5.8 Air Quality. Implementation of the Preferred Program Alternative may have potentially significant effects on air quality. These effects may include: (1) Direct, short-term air pollutant emissions during construction activities; (2) Fugitive emissions of wind-blown dust; (3) Emissions associated with prescribed burning programs; (4) Emissions from increases in equipment use and cultivation, agricultural chemical use, and crop shifting and burning; (5) Emissions if land use changes lead to higher recreational uses; and (6) Emissions from use of fossil fuels or other energy resources associated with pressurized irrigation systems; and (7) Indirect air quality impacts from increased power generation to meet Program energy consumption and changes in operation.

The following mitigation measures will reduce potential effects of implementation of the Preferred Program Alternative on air quality:

1. Set traffic limits on construction vehicles.
2. Maintain properly tuned equipment.
3. Limit the hours of operation or amount of equipment.
4. Limit the use of agricultural chemicals.
5. Coordinate prescribed burning programs with relevant air quality management agencies to ensure that the programs are accounted for in air quality management plans.
6. Regularly water construction sites to control levels of dust in the air.
7. Use soil stabilizers and dust suppressants on unpaved service roadways.
8. Conduct daily contained sweeping of paved surfaces.
9. Limit vehicle idling time.
10. Use alternatively fueled equipment.
11. Require selection of borrow sites that are closest to fill locations.
12. Implement construction practices that reduce generation of particulate matter.
13. Hydroseed and mulch exposed areas.

14. Use cultivation practices that minimize soil disturbance.
15. Follow air basin management plans to avoid or minimize vehicle-related emissions.
16. Restrict the kinds of recreational vehicles or the times of operation for certain off-road vehicles on fallowed agricultural land to limit the amount of fugitive dust.
17. Implement prescribed burning during favorable weather conditions.
18. Implement alternatives to crop burning including tilling and shallow flooding.
19. Coordinate crop stubble burning with relevant air quality management agencies to ensure that the programs are accounted for in air quality management plans.
20. Encourage use of public transportation and carpooling for construction workers.
21. Obtain replacement power from non-emitting sources such as other hydro, solar, and wind sources. This can occur through construction of, or the use of incentives to construct nonemitting power plants. This approach is consistent with state and federal policies related to promoting use of renewable resource type generation as expressed in Public Utility Code Section 381(c) (part of what is commonly referred to as AB 1890) and Executive Order 12902.
22. Utilize the best available control technology for new power production facilities.

6.1 Fisheries and Aquatic Systems. Implementation of the Preferred Program Alternative may have potentially significant effects on fisheries and aquatic systems. These effects may include: (1) Increased non-native species abundance and distribution to levels detrimental to native species from reestablishment of aquatic areas; (2) Blocked access to habitat and altered water quality and flow conditions from placement of barriers in the south Delta; (3) Altered natural ecosystem structure, removal of benthic communities, and creation of conditions that may damage habitat for desired species from dredging activities and other Program actions; (4) Release of toxic substances into surface waters; (5) Short-term disturbance of existing biological communities and species habitat, mobilized sediments, and input contaminants from construction activities; (6) Reduced streamflow and Delta outflow, changed seasonal flow and water temperature variability from water supply management, and changes in salinity associated with several Program elements resulting in reduced habitat abundance, impaired species movement, and increased loss of fish to diversions; (7) Increased entrainment loss of chinook salmon and other species from diversions to new off-stream and in-Delta storage; (8) Reduced frequency and magnitude of net natural flow conditions in the south and central Delta from Delta Cross Channel operations and south Delta barriers resulting in reduced system productivity, impaired species movement, and increased losses to diversions; (9) Reduced net flow conditions in the Sacramento River downstream of the diversion facility on the Sacramento River; (10) Increased fish mortality through abrasion, increased predation, and other factors from the new fish screen facility for the diversion facility on the Sacramento River; and (11) Delayed migration and reduced spawning success for adult fish moving from the Mokelumne River channels into the Sacramento River from fish screens and a diversion facility on the Sacramento River.

The following mitigation measures will reduce potential effects of implementation of the Preferred Program Alternative on fisheries and aquatic systems:

1. Implement BMPs, including a storm water pollution prevention plan, toxic materials control and spill response plan, and vegetation protection plan.

2. Limit construction activities to windows of minimal species vulnerability.
3. Create additional habitat for desired species, including increased aquatic area and structural diversity through construction of setback levees and channel islands.
4. Control undesirable non-native species.
5. Operate new and existing diversions to avoid and minimize effects on fish--avoid facility operations during periods of high species vulnerability.
6. Locate the diversion points to avoid primary distribution of desired species.
7. Control predators in the diversion facility (screen bays) and modify diversion facility structure and operations to minimize predator habitat.
8. Construct a barrier to fish movement on Georgiana Slough.
9. Coordinate and maximize water supply system operations flexibility consistent with seasonal flow and water temperature needs of desired species.
10. Identify and investigate issues regarding beneficial reuse of dredged material, including conducting core sampling and analysis of proposed dredged areas, and implement engineering solutions to avoid or prevent environmental exposure to toxic substances after dredging.
11. Cap exposed toxic sediments with clean clay/silt and protective gravel.
12. Locate constructed shallow-water habitat away from sources of mercury until methods for reducing mercury in water and sediment are implemented.
13. Use cofferdams to construct levees and channel modifications in isolation from existing waterways.
13. Use sediment curtains to contain turbidity plumes during dredging.
14. Schedule ground disturbing construction during the dry season.
15. Follow established and proper procedures and regulations for identifying, removing and disposing of contaminated materials.
16. Utilize the criteria and objectives in the Water Transfer Program, in conjunction with existing legal constraints on water transfers, to protect against adverse effects due to water transfers. The criteria for future water transfer proposals include:
    - Transfers must not harm fish and wildlife resources and their habitats.

6.2 Vegetation and Wildlife. Implementation of the Preferred Program Alternative may have potentially significant effects on vegetation and wildlife. These effects may include: (1) Temporary and permanent loss and degradation of wetland, riparian and other natural communities; (2) Substantial temporary or permanent loss and disturbance of wintering waterfowl foraging habitat; (3) Substantial decrease in important upland wildlife habitat and use areas; (4)Temporary and permanent fragmentation of riparian habitats and/or wildlife movement corridors; (5) Temporary or permanent loss of habitat or direct impacts on special-status species; (6) Loss of portions of rare natural communities and significant natural areas; (7) Temporary disturbance or mortality of special-status species due to construction and habitat management activities; (8) Permanent loss of incidental wetland and riparian habitats that depend on agricultural inefficiencies; and (9) Reduction in quantity or quality of forage for species of concern.