CALFED INTERNAL DRAFT
Environmental Water Account Update
October 24, 2000

Note: Please refer any questions or comments on this update to Leo Winternitz at lwintern@water.ca.gov; tel. No. (916) 653-0758.

Summary of Activities to Date

The objective of the EWA Team's negotiations with the water agencies is to have an operable EWA in place by December 2000.

Water Acquisitions

- Metropolitan Water District – The EWA Team is nearing agreement with MWD for lease of up to 200 TAF. (depending on water year type and subsequent SWP allotment) principally for demand shift purposes. Most recent meeting with MWD was on October 4. MWD will bring a draft agreement to their Board for approval on November 14. An agreement with EWA could be signed by November 15. Signing of the agreement indicates availability of funds.

- Yuba County Water Agency – The EWA Team has met four times with Yuba County Water Agency for north of Delta purchases. The last meeting was on October 20. Options for amounts of water, transfer strategies and projections of water availabilities are nearing completion. A significant uncertainty regarding a pending State Board decision on instream flow requirements that would be imposed on the YCWA has been resolved. YCWA has agreed (for one year and without setting precedent) to provide water to the EWA above any required instream flow requirements. It appears this agreement will be ready for signatures by mid-November.

- Kern County Water Agency – The EWA Team met with Kern County Water Agency and representatives from other Kern County water agencies for the second time on October 16. Purpose of the meeting was to discuss proposals from the agencies for water acquisition options. Staff has been reviewing the proposals and has used them to develop an acquisition strategy. Another meeting to discuss specific proposals and start developing agreements has been scheduled for October 30.

- Sacramento North Area Groundwater Management Authority (SNAGMA) and American River Basin Cooperating Agencies (ARBCA) – A second meeting with this group was held October 10 to discuss specifics of an agreement. Purpose is to acquire surface or groundwater and groundwater storage options north of the Delta, primarily for the drier periods. The concept

of banking and exchange was favorably accepted and a proposal is now being developed by the local participating agencies.

- Oroville-Wyandotte Irrigation District – Two meetings have been held with this District. The District's Board has approved a proposal to sell 10 TAF north of Delta water to the EWA this fall. A draft final agreement is being prepared and the District has filed water right permit actions.

- Friant Water Users – A meeting with this group was held on September 29. A draft proposal is still expected.

- Vidler Water Company – Vidler may have storage south of the Delta available for EWA uses. An October 12 meeting with Vidler to discuss available storage space and water was cancelled at their request. A new meeting has not yet been scheduled.

- A second meeting with Santa Clara Valley Water District was held on October 18. A proposal for south of Delta water, storage options and an exchange has been developed. An agreement is now being prepared.

- A meeting with San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District was held on September 27. Another meeting scheduled on October 19 to discuss specific terms was cancelled at their request. Another meeting will be rescheduled.

- A Request for Proposal describing water acquisition needs for the EWA was mailed to all State Water Contractors September 13. A request for EWA and Level 4 refuge water was mailed to Federal Contractors by the USBR on October 16.

- It appears that most EWA assets can now be obtained through existing negotiations. EWA staff are developing an acquisition strategy based on need, availability, and cost. Contacts with other water agencies for additional assets will continue to the extent they are needed for Year 2001 operations. The EWA Team's priorities are completing negotiations with the agencies mentioned above.

Budget Change Proposal

A Budget Change Proposal for developing and implementing the State elements of the EWA has been prepared. The BCP includes costs for water and storage acquisitions, power use, contracts, and staffing resources.

EWA Operations

EWA, CVPIA (b)(2) representatives, and SWP and CVP operators have been meeting Friday mornings at the Joint Operations Center to develop a coordinated (b)(2)/EWA 2001 Operations Plan. Many operational and policy issues are discussed and many outstanding issues remain. The EWA Team will attempt to

resolve issues with Project Operators as development continues. Unresolved issues will be brought to management's attention through CALFED's Water Operations Management Team meetings (WOMT).

Coordination Activities

- A presentation on EWA activities was provided to water user and environmental stakeholders on October 18. Another update for this group has been scheduled for mid-November. The EWA also presents monthly updates to participants of the CALFED Operations Group meeting.

- EWA Point Person meeting – EWA Team meetings are scheduled every Wednesday from 10 – 12 PM. Subjects addressed include environmental review, acquisition options, a strategy for water acquisitions, and work described in the EWA Principles document. (A table describing the work to be done, by whom and by when has been developed).

- EWA Protocol and Financing Team Meetings – Part of the work products described in the EWA Operating Principles document are the development of protocols for operation of the EWA and a financing plan to ensure monies are available for EWA operations, and to ensure increased costs are not borne by water users. Teams have been assembled to conduct this work. The EWA Finance Team met on October 11 and is meeting again on October 26. The EWA Protocol Team met on October 18 and is working on draft products. The EWA Environmental Compliance Team has met several times to discuss the best approach for documenting environmental compliance. A recommendation on the approach will be made this week, and work will begin immediately. Environmental documentation should be available for public review by November 20.

- Meet with SWRCB – The EWA team met with the State Board on September 19 to determine water right permit responsibilities for the various water acquisitions. Change in Place of Use petitions, and a response plan for joint pumping will need to be prepared to implement the EWA. A storage permit will be required if any water is to be stored either on the surface or in the ground by the EWA.