

GAO

Report to the Honorable
Doug Ose, House of Representatives

August 2000

FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT

Federal Land Acquisitions in California Since January 1994



G A O

Accountability * Integrity * Reliability

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United States General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

Resources, Community, and
Economic Development Division

B-285496

August 30, 2000

The Honorable Doug Ose
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Ose:

In California, the federal government owns about 45 million acres of national forests, national parks, wildlife refuges, military installations, and other public lands—about 45 percent of the state's total land area. About 90 percent of this federal land was established in the public domain when Mexico ceded the area that became California to the United States in 1848; federal agencies have subsequently acquired the remainder. Agencies acquire nonfederal land through various means—such as purchase, exchange, and donation—and for a variety of purposes, including restoring ecosystems and protecting wildlife habitat. In acquiring land, federal agencies may obtain full ownership, which occurs when fee simple title to the land is transferred from the nonfederal owner to the federal government, or they may obtain a partial interest in the land—for example, by obtaining an easement restricting the land's future development while the nonfederal landowner retains title. Some of the federal land acquisitions were made as a part of a joint federal-state program—called CALFED—that was created in 1995 to protect the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, known as the Bay-Delta area. The program's mission is to develop a long-term comprehensive plan to restore the ecological health of and improve water management in the Bay-Delta area, which supplies drinking water for more than 22 million Californians and irrigation water for the state's agricultural industry. In addition, as part of their ongoing acquisition programs, federal agencies have made other land acquisitions outside of CALFED.

You asked us to report information on land acquired by federal agencies from January 1994 through April 2000 in California for such purposes as restoring ecosystems and protecting wildlife habitat. Specifically, you asked us to identify (1) lands acquired through the CALFED program since its inception in 1995 by federal agencies or by nonfederal entities using federal funds and (2) lands acquired outside the CALFED program by federal agencies. We obtained data on federal land acquisitions in California from CALFED and seven federal agencies that acquire land for these purposes: the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land

Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service; the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service; and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.¹

Results in Brief

Since the inception of the CALFED program in May 1995 through April 2000, federal agencies have acquired or are in the process of acquiring full ownership or easements through the program on about 16,300 acres in the Bay-Delta area in California.² About 11,700 acres involve full ownership by the Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service; the remaining 4,600 acres involve easements being acquired by Interior's Bureau of Land Management and the Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service. In addition to land acquisitions by federal agencies, nonfederal entities—including state and local agencies and nonprofit organizations, such as The Nature Conservancy—received federal funds through the CALFED program to acquire about 6,500 acres.

Outside of the CALFED program, federal agencies also acquired about 404,000 acres in California from January 1994 through April 2000. Federal agencies acquired full ownership of about 336,000 acres: About 257,000 acres are located in the southern California desert and were acquired by the Bureau of Land Management, and about 79,000 acres are scattered throughout the state and were acquired by various agencies. Easements were acquired on about 69,000 acres—mostly located in California's Central Valley—primarily by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wetlands Reserve Program of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Background

CALFED is a consortium of state and federal agencies with management and regulatory responsibilities in the Bay-Delta area in California. It was established in 1995 to develop a long-term plan for restoring the ecological health of and improving water management in the area. CALFED has

¹The Army Corps of Engineers acquired land for environmental mitigation associated with a flood control project. We did not include information on other Department of Defense agencies because we focused on agencies that acquire land for such purposes as ecosystem restoration or wildlife habitat.

²This includes land acquisition projects that are under way and projects for which CALFED funding has been approved.

identified four major problem areas in this area: ecosystem health, water supply reliability, levee system integrity, and water quality. To address these problems, CALFED uses several resource management strategies, one of which is its Ecosystem Restoration Program. Land acquisition by federal and state agencies is one of the means used to meet this program's goals of improving and increasing wildlife habitat and improving ecological functions in the Bay-Delta area. CALFED solicits proposals for ecosystem restoration projects, which are reviewed for their scientific and technical adequacy and their applicability to its goals. The member agencies make funding recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior and California's Secretary for Resources, who decide which projects will receive federal and state funding, respectively.

In November 1996, the California Bay-Delta Environmental Enhancement and Water Security Act, known as the Bay-Delta Act, authorized the expenditure of federal funds in fiscal years 1998 through 2000 for developing and implementing the ecosystem restoration plan for the Bay-Delta area.³ These funds are appropriated to the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, which distributes them to other federal agencies that participate in CALFED. A small amount of funding is also provided through the Environmental Protection Agency's Watershed Fund. Since 1998, CALFED's Ecosystem Restoration Program has received \$190 million in Bay-Delta Act funds; \$60 million was appropriated for fiscal year 2000.⁴ Some projects approved for funding by CALFED may also be partly funded through the Central Valley Project Restoration Fund, which is financed by donations and by payments from water and power users.⁵ CALFED's Ecosystem Restoration Program also receives state and local funding; in some cases, CALFED approves the expenditure of nonfederal funds for federal agencies to acquire land.

Federal agencies also acquire land in California outside of the CALFED program. These agencies—primarily the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, and the Forest

³P.L. 104-208, Division E, title I, Sept. 30, 1996. These provisions were also enacted in P.L. 104-333, Division I, title XI, Nov. 12, 1996.

⁴P.L. 106-60, title II, Sept. 29, 1999.

⁵This fund was established by the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (P.L. 102-575, title XXXIV of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992, Oct. 30, 1992).

Service—acquire land for such purposes as improving land management, protecting wildlife habitat, and preserving wetlands. For example, most of the Bureau of Land Management’s acquisitions in California were made pursuant to the California Desert Protection Act of 1994,⁶ and the land will be managed for its wilderness, wildlife habitat, and recreation values.

Funds for federal land acquisitions outside of the CALFED program come primarily from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which was established in 1964 to fund land acquisitions by various federal agencies and is supported by several revenue sources, such as revenues from offshore oil and gas leasing and user fees for outdoor recreation. Funds also come from other sources, including the Central Valley Project Restoration Fund and the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund;⁷ acquisitions of easements by the Wetlands Reserve Program of the Natural Resources Conservation Service are funded through the Commodity Credit Corporation.⁸

Land Acquired Through the CALFED Program

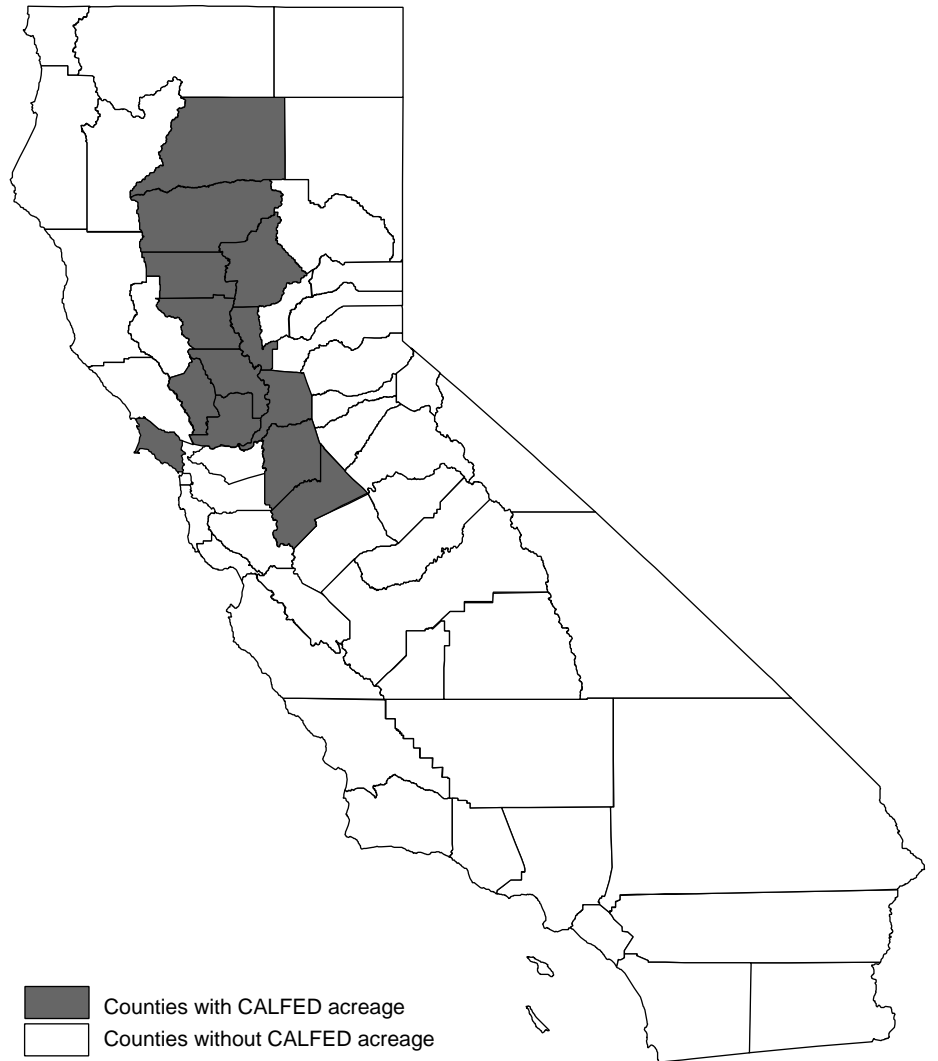
Since the inception of the CALFED program in May 1995 through April 2000, federal agencies have acquired or are in the process of acquiring about 16,300 acres in California’s Bay-Delta area as part of that program. Although not all of the transactions have been completed, about 11,700 acres involve full ownership, and the remaining 4,600 acres involve easements. In addition to these federal acquisitions, nonfederal entities (including state and local agencies and nonprofit organizations, such as The Nature Conservancy) have received federal funds through the CALFED program to acquire about 6,500 acres. Figure 1 shows the counties in which the completed and ongoing land acquisitions by federal agencies and nonfederal entities have occurred as part of the CALFED program. Appendix I provides detailed information on the funding, acreage, location, and status of land acquisitions by specific federal agencies and nonfederal entities through the CALFED program (see tables 1 and 2).

⁶P.L. 103-433, Oct. 31, 1994.

⁷The Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929 authorized the acquisition of land and water to protect migratory birds. The migratory bird fund was established in 1934 by the Migratory Bird Hunting and Stamp Act and is supported by revenues from a number of sources, such as entrance fees to national wildlife refuges.

⁸As provided by the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Apr. 4, 1996), which amended the Food Security Act of 1985.

Figure 1: Counties in Which Federal Agencies and Nonfederal Entities Using Federal Funds Have Acquired or Are Acquiring Land Through the CALFED Program, May 1995 Through April 2000



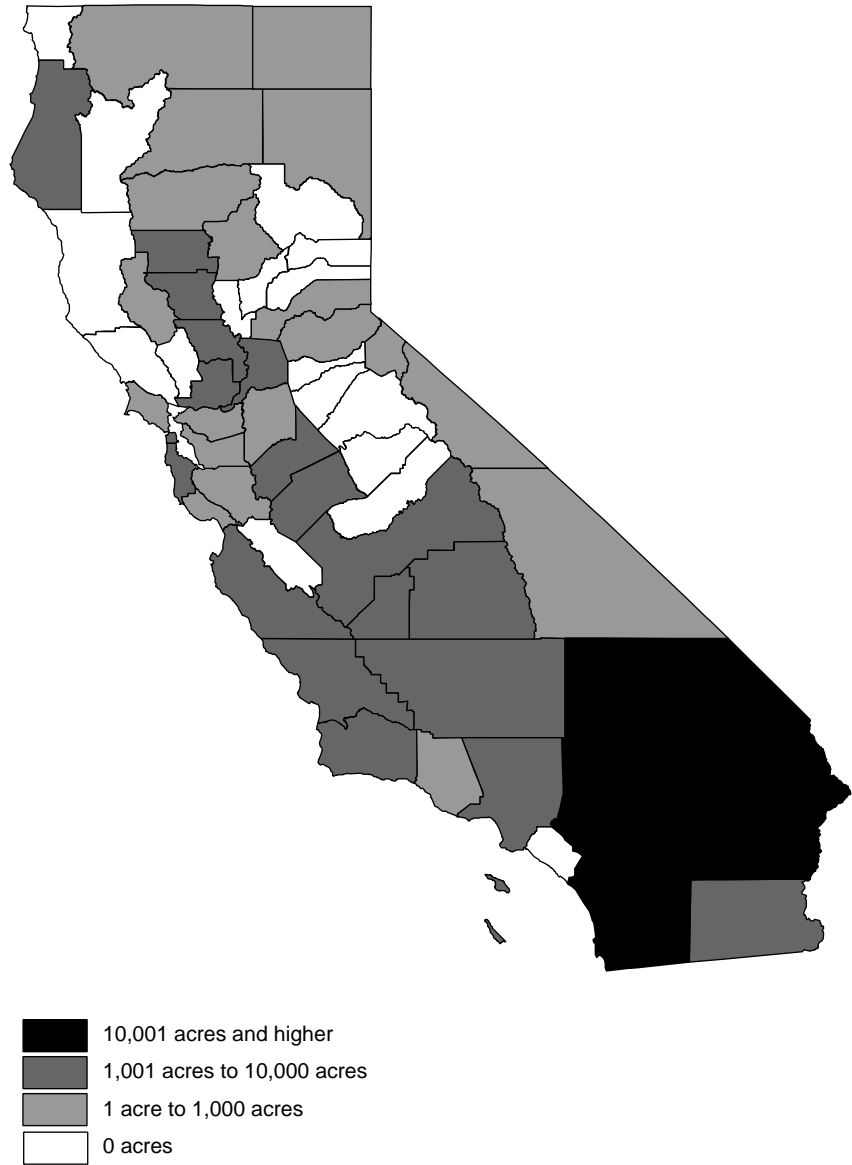
Source: GAO's analysis of CALFED's data.

Land Acquired Outside of the CALFED Program

Outside of the CALFED program, federal agencies acquired about 404,000 acres in California from January 1994 through April 2000: full ownership of about 336,000 acres and easements on about 69,000 acres. Of the acres acquired with full ownership, about 257,000 acres, or 76 percent, were acquired by the Bureau of Land Management and lie within three counties in the southern California desert.⁹ The remaining acreage acquired with full ownership—approximately 79,000 acres, or 24 percent—is scattered throughout the state and was acquired by six agencies: the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the Forest Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Most of the acreage acquired under easements is located in California's Central Valley, and virtually all of it was acquired by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Figures 2 and 3 show, by county, the distribution of acreage acquired by federal agencies outside of the CALFED program (with full ownership and with easements, respectively). Appendix I provides detailed information on the acreage, the location, and the cost of land acquired by specific federal agencies outside of the CALFED program (see tables 3 and 4).

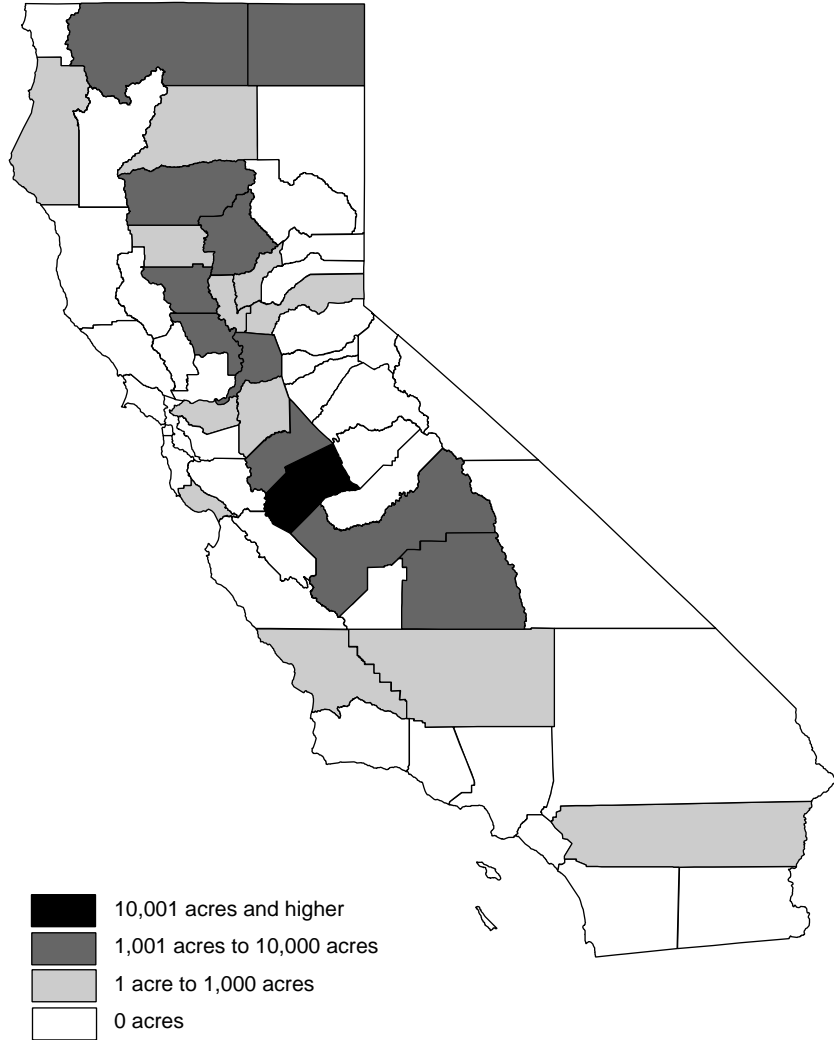
⁹The Bureau of Land Management acquired 225,000 of these acres pursuant to the California Desert Protection Act of 1994.

Figure 2: Land Acquired With Full Ownership by Federal Agencies Outside of the CALFED Program, January 1994 Through April 2000



Source: GAO's analysis of data provided by federal agencies.

Figure 3: Easements Acquired by Federal Agencies Outside of the CALFED Program, January 1994 Through April 2000



Source: GAO's analysis of data provided by federal agencies.

In addition to the land already acquired, federal agencies have developed proposals and/or requested funds (as of May 1, 2000) to acquire full ownership of approximately 415,000 acres in California outside of the CALFED program over the next several years. Almost 60 percent of this land—about 238,000 acres—is located in the desert in southern California.¹⁰ Appendix I provides detailed information on the acreage, the location, and the projected cost of the land that federal agencies propose to acquire in full ownership (see table 5). In addition, the Natural Resources Conservation Service plans to acquire easements on approximately 20,000 additional acres.

Agency Comments

We provided CALFED, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with a draft of this report for their review and comment. CALFED provided updated information and additional details about the land acquisition projects funded through CALFED, which we have incorporated as appropriate. CALFED's comments are included in appendix II. The Department of the Interior generally agreed with our report, but expressed concern that we had overstated the extent and cost of acquisitions through the CALFED program because we did not separately identify the acquisitions that are in process from those that are complete. In response, we clarified that some federal acquisitions through CALFED are not yet complete, and we added information about those projects to appendix I. Interior also provided technical clarifications to the data, which we incorporated as appropriate. Interior's comments are included in appendix III. Neither the Department of Agriculture nor the Army Corps of Engineers provided comments on the draft report.

To obtain data on federal land in California acquired through the CALFED program, we contacted officials with CALFED's Ecosystem Restoration Program, who provided information on CALFED's projects involving land acquisitions by federal agencies or by nonfederal entities receiving federal funds.

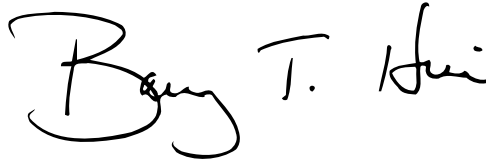
¹⁰According to agency officials, these lands include acreage designated for acquisition under the California Desert Protection Act of 1994. In July 2000, the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service acquired about 181,000 of these acres through purchase and donation.

To obtain data on federal land in California acquired outside the CALFED program, we identified and contacted the seven federal agencies that acquire land: the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service; the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service; and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. While some data were readily available, and we verified these data as best we could, other data were not readily available, and we researched files on land acquisition to obtain them. We conducted our review from March 2000 through July 2000 in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.

As requested, unless you publicly announce its contents earlier, we plan no further distribution of this report until 30 days after the date of this letter. At that time, we will send copies of this report to the Honorable Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Thomas Fry, Director of the Bureau of Land Management; the Honorable Eluid Martinez, Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation; the Honorable Jamie Rappaport Clark, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service; the Honorable Robert Stanton, Director of the National Park Service; the Honorable Dan Glickman, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture; the Honorable Mike Dombeck, Chief of the Forest Service; the Honorable Pearlie S. Reed, Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service; Major General Russell L. Fuhrman, Acting Commander of the Army Corps of Engineers; and the Honorable Steven R. Ritchie, Acting Executive Director of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. We will also make copies available to others on request.

If you or your staff have any questions about this report, please call me at 202-512-3841. Key contributors to this report were John Cass, Jennifer Duncan, John Furutani, and Sue Naiberk.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry T. Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "B" and a distinct "T" and "H".

Barry T. Hill
Associate Director, Energy, Resources,
and Science Issues

Information on Land Acquisitions in California

Table 1: Funding, Acreage, Location, and Status of Federal Agencies' Land Acquisition Projects Approved Through the CALFED Program, May 1995 Through April 2000

Agency and project	Project funding approved through CALFED ^a	Acreage		Counties	Status of acquisition
		Full ownership	Easement		
Bureau of Land Management					
Riparian Corridor	\$2,240,250	0	1,411	Shasta, Tehama	In process
Fish and Wildlife Service					
Liberty Island ^b	\$8,926,000	4,760	0	Solano, Yolo	Complete
Liberty Island	2,701,735	449	0	Solano, Yolo	Funding approved
Sacramento River ^c	780,000	200	0	Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Shasta, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo	Complete
Sacramento River ^d	6,051,413	1,303	0	Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Shasta, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo	Complete
San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge	10,647,000	4,205	1,964	Stanislaus	In process
San Luis National Wildlife Refuge	1,100,000	230	0	Stanislaus	In process
Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge ^e	2,400,000	537	0	Sacramento	Complete
Natural Resources Conservation Service					
Floodplain Easements ^f	\$1,545,000	0	1,200	Stanislaus	In process
Total	\$36,391,398	11,684	4,575		

^aCALFED-approved funding may be from federal, state, or local sources. Projects may also receive funding from other sources, such as the Central Valley Project Restoration Fund.

^bAccording to the Department of the Interior, the funding for this acquisition was transferred to the Trust for Public Lands under a reimbursable agreement, and ownership of the land may be transferred to the Fish and Wildlife Service in the future.

^cFunded through CALFED with state funds; the Fish and Wildlife Service and The Nature Conservancy are joint applicants for funding for this project.

^dFunded through CALFED with state funds; the California Department of Fish and Game's Wildlife Conservation Board, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and The Nature Conservancy are joint applicants for this project. Funding and acreage shown are for the Fish and Wildlife Service's portion of this acquisition.

^eAccording to the Department of the Interior, the funding for this acquisition was transferred to the American Land Conservancy under a reimbursable agreement, and ownership of the land will be transferred to the Fish and Wildlife Service within 5 years.

^fFloodplain easements are used in areas with histories of flood damage; instead of repairing levees damaged by flooding, the Natural Resources Conservation Service obtains easements on land along the river and allows the river to meander and flood as it would have if levees had not been built along its banks.

Source: GAO's analysis of data provided by CALFED's Ecosystem Restoration Program.

**Appendix I
Information on Land Acquisitions in
California**

Table 2: Funding, Acreage, Location, and Status of Nonfederal Entities' Land Acquisition Projects Using Federal Funds Through the CALFED Program, May 1995 Through April 2000

Nonfederal party	Project	Project funding approved through CALFED	Acreage	Counties	Status
Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy	Butte Creek Acquisition	\$125,000 ^a	146	Butte	Complete
California Department of Fish and Game	Fern-Headreach and Shaded River	425,000	168	San Joaquin	Complete
City of American Canyon	South Napa River Tidal Slough and Floodplain	1,490,000	460	Napa	In process
East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District and Friends of the Tuolumne	Grayson River Ranch Perpetual Easement	26,250	140	Stanislaus	Complete
Marin Audubon Society	Petaluma Marsh	352,135	181	Marin	In process
Napa County Land Trust	Napa River Wetlands	1,073,513	68	Napa	In process
Napa County Land Trust	South Napa River Wetlands Acquisition and Restoration Program	431,000	42	Napa	In process
The Nature Conservancy	Cosumnes Floodplain	3,500,000	2,247	Sacramento	Complete
The Nature Conservancy	Cosumnes River	750,000	300 ^b	Sacramento	In process
The Nature Conservancy	Deer and Mill Creeks	1,000,000	750 ^b	Tehama	In process
The Nature Conservancy	McCormack-Williamson Tract	5,356,000	1,655	Sacramento	Complete
The Nature Conservancy ^c	Sacramento River Floodplain	1,000,000	300 ^b	Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Shasta, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo	In process
Total		\$15,528,898	6,457		

^aAmount shown is cost of acquisition as provided by the Department of the Interior; total project cost is \$547,000.

^bFor these projects, the specific parcels and acreages are still in negotiation. To date, no land has been purchased with funding through the CALFED program.

^cThe Nature Conservancy, the California Department of Fish and Game's Wildlife Conservation Board, and others are applicants for this funding.

Source: GAO's analysis of data provided by CALFED's Ecosystem Restoration Program.

**Appendix I
Information on Land Acquisitions in
California**

Table 3: Acreage Acquired in Full Ownership and With Easements by Federal Agencies Outside of the CALFED Program, January 1994 Through April 2000

Agency	Acreage in full ownership	Acreage with easements ^a	Total acreage
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	1,630	0	1,630
Bureau of Land Management	271,727	32	271,759
Bureau of Reclamation	6,784 ^b	0	6,784
Fish and Wildlife Service	19,444	30,792	50,236
Forest Service	8,018	0	8,018
National Park Service	27,989	0	27,989
Natural Resources Conservation Service	0	37,692	37,692
Total	335,592	68,516	404,108

^aAcreage with federally owned easements remains in private ownership.

^bThree tracts acquired by the Bureau of Reclamation, totaling 3,883 acres, are managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

Source: GAO's analysis of data provided by federal agencies.

Table 4: Location, Acreage, and Cost of Land Acquired in Full Ownership and With Easements by Federal Agencies Outside of the CALFED Program, January 1994 Through April 2000

Counties	Full ownership		Easement ^a	
	Acreage	Cost ^b	Acreage	Cost ^b
Alameda	108	\$7,500,000	0	0
Alpine	962	0	0	0
Butte	327	1,594,800	3,427	\$4,373,975
Colusa	932	1,579,231	5,053	8,211,364
Colusa/Lake	948	332,052	0	0
Contra Costa	1	200,000	493	985,200
El Dorado	225	654,600	0	0
Fresno	1,647	2,888,400	2,816	5,428,200
Glenn	1,767	5,601,354	864	1,155,640
Humboldt	5,210	3,301,250	5	0
Imperial	4,110	396,235	0	0
Inyo	102	107,000	0	0
Inyo/San Bernardino	1,080	0	0	0
Kern	1,655	1,271,016	93	186,000
Kings	1,068	576,450	0	0

**Appendix I
Information on Land Acquisitions in
California**

(Continued From Previous Page)

Counties	Full ownership		Easement ^a	
	Acreage	Cost ^b	Acreage	Cost ^b
Kings/Tulare	1,237	2,655,134	0	0
Lassen	245	219,000	0.1	200
Los Angeles	1,225	12,187,300	0	0
Marin	734	6,753,000	0	0
Merced	3,075	4,417,074	24,900	16,615,757
Modoc	637	150,000	3,759	2,780,653
Mono	7	2,500	0	0
Monterey	2,091	5,168,000	0	0
Placer	241	716,225	33	45,344
Riverside	34,310	15,610,063	3	1,000
Sacramento	1,351	5,291,136	8,008	6,904,840
San Bernardino	235,339	37,310,606	0	0
San Diego	10,294	22,435,960	0	0
San Francisco	1,837	750,000	0	0
San Joaquin	35	176,900	749	1,388,755
San Luis Obispo	3,687	810,850	175	227,000
San Mateo	2,095	17,000,000	0	0
Santa Barbara	6,291	10,800	0	0
Santa Clara	7	0	0	0
Santa Cruz	38	415,000	5	0
Shasta	112	37,500	466	533,082
Siskiyou	280	0	2,358	1,014,990
Solano	1,254	2,823,000	0	0
Solano/Yolo	1,630	2,110,000	0	0
Stanislaus	2,440	11,707,565	2,163	3,108,468
Sutter	0	0	517	794,120
Tehama	527	392,132	2,947	1,432,187
Tulare	1,981	1,653,679	4,128	4,661,305
Ventura	419	2,991,500	0	0
Yolo	2,032	762,000	5,299	8,008,430
Yuba	0	0	258	387,880
Total	335,592	\$180,559,312	68,516	\$68,244,390

^aAcreage with federally owned easements remains in private ownership.

^bCost shown includes nonappropriated federal funds—such as Migratory Bird Conservation funds and Commodity Credit Corporation funds—and such nonfederal funds as state and local grants. Land that is shown with zero cost was donated to the federal government.

Source: GAO's analysis of data provided by federal agencies.

**Appendix I
Information on Land Acquisitions in
California**

Table 5: Location, Acreage, and Projected Cost of Land Proposed to be Acquired by Federal Agencies Outside of the CALFED Program, as of May 1, 2000

Counties	Acreage	Projected cost
Calaveras	62	\$11,000
Contra Costa	10	96,900
El Dorado, Placer ^a	5,050	37,500,000
Fresno	5,353	13,826,800
Glenn	70	202,500
Kern, San Luis Obispo ^b	95,000	21,754,000
Kings, Tulare	3,492	8,892,900
Los Angeles	330	4,356,400
Merced	3,483	2,158,200
Monterey ^c	3,554	32,500,000
Riverside ^d	12,391	45,513,000
San Benito	1,967	2,000,000
San Bernardino ^e	237,000	18,000,000
San Bernardino, Riverside ^f	900	5,000,000
San Diego ^g	9,197	25,350,000
Shasta, Tehama ^h	10,342	15,984,000
Siskiyou	194	1,800,000
Sutter	800	3,900,000
Tulare	626	640,000
Ventura	26	521,000
Not specified—California wilderness ⁱ	25,144	51,000,000
Total	414,991	\$291,006,700

^aThe Forest Service's planned acquisitions of land in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

^bThe Bureau of Land Management's planned acquisitions of land in the Carrizo Plain Natural Area; amounts include projections over 10 years.

^cThe Forest Service's planned acquisitions of land in the Big Sur Ecosystem; amounts include fiscal year 2000 request and projected future needs.

^dThe Bureau of Land Management's planned acquisitions of land in two areas; amounts include projections over 10 years.

^eThe Bureau of Land Management's and the National Park Service's planned acquisitions of land under the California Desert Protection Act of 1994. This is a portion of a partially completed acquisition that will total 437,000 acres. According to agency officials, the agencies acquired about 181,000 acres of this land through purchase and donation in late July 2000.

^fThe Forest Service's planned acquisitions of land in the San Bernardino Ecosystem.

^gIncludes the Fish and Wildlife Service's planned acquisitions of land for fiscal years 2000 and 2001 and the Bureau of Land Management's projections over 10 years.

**Appendix I
Information on Land Acquisitions in
California**

^hThe Bureau of Land Management's planned acquisitions of land along the Sacramento River and two of its tributaries; amounts include projections over 10 years.

ⁱThe Forest Service's planned acquisitions of nonfederal land within the boundaries of wilderness areas in California.

Source: GAO's analysis of data provided by federal agencies or of budget justifications for fiscal years 2000 and 2001, which—for the Bureau of Land Management—include projections over 10 years.

Comments From CALFED



1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
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FAX (916) 654-9780

August 8, 2000

Mr. Barry T. Hill
Associate Director, Energy, Resources and Science Issues
Resources, Community and Economic Development Division
US General Accounting Office
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Hill:

On July 28, 2000, we provided comments on your draft report titled Federal Land Management: Federal Land Acquisitions in California Since January 1994 (GAO/RCED-00-239, code 14134). We have also been in contact with Jennifer Duncan of GAO in Denver. Based on those discussions and further review, we have revised our comments for Table 1 and Table 2. Attached is an updated version of those tables.

Do not hesitate to contact us for additional review or comment. Please refer your questions to Rebecca Fawver of the Ecosystem Restoration Program at (916) 654-1334. We look forward to seeing the final report.

Sincerely,

Steven R. Ritchie
Acting Executive Director

Attachments

CALFED Agencies

<p>California</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Resources Agency Department of Fish and Game Department of Water Resources California Environmental Protection Agency State Water Resources Control Board Department of Food and Agriculture 	<p>Federal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Protection Agency Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service Bureau of Reclamation U.S. Geological Survey Bureau of Land Management U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service U.S. Forest Service Department of Commerce National Marine Fisheries Service Western Area Power Administration
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Comments From the Department of the Interior



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240



AUG - 4 2000

Mr. Barry T. Hill
Associate Director, Energy Resources
and Science Issues
U.S. General Accounting Office
Washington, DC 20548

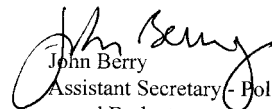
Dear Mr. Hill:

This is in response to the General Accounting Office Draft Report, "FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT: Federal Land Acquisitions in California Since January 1994" (GAO/RCED-00-239).

Overall we agree with the report's findings. However, the Department is concerned with the accuracy of some of the factual data presented in the report. In GAO's effort to simplify some of the data, inaccuracies have occurred that may require revision. We believe that by not clarifying these inaccuracies we may inadvertently misinform the Congress and the public on Federal land acquisitions. Please refer to the enclosure for these important clarifications.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on this GAO report.

Sincerely,


John Berry
Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management
and Budget

Enclosure

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