SEP 23 1999 1166

September 20, 1999

Lester Snow
Executive Director
CalFed Bay/Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street
Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Executive Director Snow:

Please enter these comments into the formal record for your Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report and Statement. The CALFED Bay/Delta program must be revised to:

Not commit to building any new or expanded dams, reservoirs, or canals during CALFED's "Stage 1". Dams are great contributors to the environmental problems, including devastated salmon runs, that are ones of the stated goals of the Bay/Delta program. They add to the problem of the delta islands sinking (another stated problem to address) because all the silt is behind dams rather than being deposited in the delta. I fail to see how more dams would help.

We have an immense network of dams already that enable us direct most of the water available. Additional ones will not help much but may add to evaporative losses. The groundwater storage studies may be the way to go.

Improve water quality for people and wildlife by preventing pollution at the source. The polluters object, but it is generally much easier and cheaper to prevent than to cleanup. I realize that some sources like farming are hard. But using less fertilizer and preventing soil loss benefit the farmer also.

Increase serious investments in water conservation and efficiency, groundwater management, pollution prevention, and drinking watertreatment. Our population is growing, yet basic measures such as water meters seem untouchable (until crisis?).

Restore our rivers, bays, and fisheries by providing firm guarantees of more fresh water flows and by caring for the land around our rivers. The plan mentions some creative management practices but they seem too vague to for me to consider them workable or sufficient.

We must not make taxpayers subsidize new dams or canals. Large water users should pay for the water. The city water districts have the money. The farmers rarely pay the full cost.

I would like to point out that I think there are good points to the plan. Additional efforts to protect fish from the delta diversion pumps are good. Setback levees and improving the

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levees are good. Enabling more water transfers, if done right, can help us put the water to more beneficial uses (in the larger sense including recreation and wildlife).

Thank you,

Ian Rice