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October 20, 1995

OCT 24 1995

Lester Snow
Executive Director
CALFED
1416 9th Street, Room 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Lester:

Re: CALFED Bay-Delta Workshop 10/12/95 Comments

1. ~~The water supply augmentation action needs further clarification.~~ There seems to be confusion on the part of some participants (at least in the group I was in) as to the meaning of water supply reliability. Coming from an urban background, it will have a different meaning than it will for someone from the ag or enviro community.
2. The ecosystem quality statement incorrectly sets forth the "primary reason for (Bay-Delta system) decline..." Most people would conclude from that statement that the present conflict among competing beneficial uses has been brought on by the reduction in fish populations particularly certain species. Loss of habitat is not the only contributing factor to such declines. There are a number of important factors within, upstream and downstream of the Delta.
3. As the CALFED staff develops the "bundling" concept for the December workshop, the use of water transfers as a tool to meeting objectives must reflect the real time experience with water supply operation and environmental conflicts that have been experienced during previous state droughts. A good resource may be DWR's Program EIR on the state drought water bank dated November 1993, particularly pages 177-186.
4. Use of conservation, reclamation and water transfers. These 3 action categories should be used uniformly for all CALFED projected options. It should be assumed that these techniques are, and will be, adopted by all water agencies as a matter of prudent, cost-effective water supply planning. CALFED should focus on the need for agencies to demonstrate the pursuit of these techniques as part of an integrated planning effort for those depending on Delta supplies. It should not propose these techniques as a stand-

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alone option for dealing with the imbalance of supply and demand for Delta waters. It also must be emphasized that for water reclamation and conjunctive use of groundwater to be a viable option for Southern California export users, Delta supplies of low-salinity levels are necessary to protect groundwater resources and provide reclaimed water at acceptable salinity levels. CALFED should adopt the use of the term "water recycling" in lieu of water reclamation to avoid confusion.

5. In action categories to increase supply predictability, there needs to be a category along the lines of "shelf life" or "institutional guarantees". This is to prepare for the possibility of future ESA actions limiting exports despite the best intent and effort from all parties to restore the estuary's health. This institutional guarantee may need to be phased to allow time for the recovery and for adaptive management.

While I did not attend the previous two workshops and have no idea of how they were conducted, I felt the breakout sessions used last week provided an opportunity for detailed discussion. Unfortunately, none of the breakout groups had full representation of all of the various interest groups. For future workshops. . .

1. I suggest giving each group the same topics or, after the report from the individual breakout groups, the large group should select key issues for a broader discussion.
2. I heard someone suggest that providing a one-page glossary could keep us current on the various terms that you and your staff are using, e.g., "bundling", actions, problems, objectives, etc., and could be very helpful, particularly if it is done in a graphic way on a one-page sheet. This would also allow for people like myself, who have stepped in a little late, to see the process that's been used up to this point and where the process is going (a road map).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I appreciate the quick pace and effort that your staff is putting forward in trying to maintain the quality of work and move forward with a long-term Bay/Delta solution.

Sincerely,



Stanley E. Sprague
General Manager

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