

**Comments From The  
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce  
Presented at the Cal/Fed Scoping Hearing  
In Long Beach  
April 17, 1996**

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GOOD MORNING LADIES AND GENTLEMEN AND THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO YOU TODAY. MY NAME IS CORY SIMS. I AM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AT THE LOS ANGELES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

THE CHAMBER REPRESENTS NEARLY 2000 MEMBERS FROM THE COUNTIES OF LOS ANGELES, ORANGE, VENTURA, SAN BERNARDINO AND RIVERSIDE.

I WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN BY SAYING THAT THE CHAMBER IS VERY SUPPORTIVE OF THE CAL/FED PROCESS AND EVERYTHING THAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED TO THIS POINT IN THE DELTA REGION.

WATER RELIABILITY FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IS AMONG THE CHAMBER'S TOP PRIORITIES FOR 1996. AS SUCH, THE CHAMBER WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS SOME CONCERNS THAT WE HAVE WITH THE BAY-DELTA SOLUTION ALTERNATIVES AS THEY ARE CURRENTLY DRAFTED.

THE CHAMBER FEELS THAT A RELIABLE WATER SUPPLY IS CRUCIAL TO THE ECONOMIC CLIMATE IN OUR REGION. ANY BAY-DELTA SOLUTION SHOULD SEEK TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE AS ONE OF THE PRIMARY NEEDS OF CALIFORNIA'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY WHICH IS A MAJOR STAKEHOLDER IN THE BAY-DELTA ACCORD PROCEEDINGS.

AS THE REVENUE BASE OF CALIFORNIA AND AS THE STATE'S LEADER IN WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, IT IS ESPECIALLY

IMPORTANT THAT SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S NEEDS BE FACTORED INTO CONSIDERATIONS OF THE FINAL SOLUTION AS WELL.

IN LINE WITH THIS, THE CHAMBER BELIEVES THAT LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES AND THE NEEDS OF LOCAL AGENCIES MUST BE CONSIDERED BY CAL/FED WHEN DESIGNING ANY BAY-DELTA IMPROVEMENT PLAN. ANY SUCH PLAN WILL UNDOUBTEDLY DEPEND ON THESE AGENCIES AND INFRASTRUCTURES FOR FINANCIAL AND FACILITIES SUPPORT AND IT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED THAT IN SOME AREAS THESE AGENCIES ARE ALREADY UNDER PRESSURE TO MEET THE WATER DEMANDS OF A NUMBER OF GROWING COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL SITES.

THE CHAMBER HAS ALSO LONG BEEN A PROMOTER OF CONSERVATION AND WATER RECYCLING PROGRAMS. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HAS INVESTED MORE THAN SEVEN BILLION DOLLARS IN CONSERVATION, WATER QUALITY AND WATER RECYCLING. THESE TYPES OF EFFICIENT USE PRACTICES SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED AMONG ALL INTEREST GROUPS, INCLUDING AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL USERS.

THE CHAMBER FEELS A BAY-DELTA SOLUTION MUST APPLY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES STANDARDS OR EQUIVALENT JUSTIFICATION STANDARDS FOR BAY-DELTA ALLOCATIONS TO ALL USERS. FURTHER, USER GROUPS WHO HAVE ALREADY REDUCED THEIR DEMAND FOR FRESH WATER SHOULD RECEIVE SOME FORM OF RECOGNITION FOR THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

ON THE OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL SIDE, AFFECTED COMMUNITIES MUST SEE COST-BENEFIT COMPARISONS OF EACH OF THE FINAL PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES. THE CHAMBER HAS NOT YET ENDORSED ANY SINGLE ALTERNATIVE IN PART BECAUSE OUR MEMBERS WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO EVALUATE BOTH THE FINANCIAL BURDENS AND THE ULTIMATE BENEFITS OF ANY PROPOSED DELTA SOLUTION.

THE CHAMBER WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE COST OF ANY PROPOSED SOLUTION AS WELL AS THE ALLOCATION OF REVENUES FOR ANY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS SHOULD BE DISTRIBUTED FAIRLY AND EQUITABLY AMONGST URBAN, ENVIRONMENTAL AND AGRICULTURAL INTEREST GROUPS. THE FINAL APPROVED SOLUTION SHOULD INCLUDE PRECISE DOLLAR AMOUNTS FOR PROJECTS AND PROVIDE SOME GUARANTEE FOR THE COMPLETION OF ALL PROJECTS.

IN CLOSING, I WOULD SAY THAT ALTHOUGH OUR MEMBERS FEEL THAT NONE OF THE CURRENTLY PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES SATISFACTORILY ADDRESSES THE CONCERNS I HAVE MENTIONED HERE, WE ARE WILLING TO WORK WITH CAL/FED AND BDAC TO REACH A GREATER DEGREE OF CONSENSUS ON THESE ISSUES.

THE CAL/FED PROCESS ITSELF HAS ALREADY IDENTIFIED SOME OF OUR CONCERNS AND WE URGE YOU ALL TO CONTINUE TO EXPLORE THESE CONSIDERATIONS.

ONCE AGAIN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH YOU THIS AFTERNOON. I WOULD BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE. I WILL ALSO BE SUBMITTING A WRITTEN COPY OF MY COMMENTS.