

U.S. Department
of Transportation
United States
Coast Guard



Commander (pow-2)
Eleventh Coast Guard District

96-290
OCT 18 1996
Bldg. 50-6
Coast Guard Island
Alameda, CA 94501-5100
Phone: (510) 437-3514
Fax: (510) 437-5836

16591
Ser: 556-96
Sacramento R. (Gen)
October 15, 1996

Mr. Lester A. Snow
Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

I have reviewed enclosures forwarded by your letter of September 24, 1996 regarding the Draft Handbook of Environmental Compliance for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. I have the following comments:

a. General. Thank you for including the Coast Guard requirements in your handbook.

b. Page 1-13. I am not certain why the U.S. Coast Guard is listed as an agency concerned with improving fish salvage operations. Our concern with those operations would be the same as our concern for any marine operations: safety of vessels and embarked personnel, and prevention of water pollution.

c. Page 3-31 addresses "closure of waterways" under Jurisdiction and Duties in the context of bridge permit administration. The Coast Guard bridge program does not have the authority to close a waterway, however the Coast Guard Captain of the Port may do so, and separately, the District Engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may do so. As a practical matter, that authority is rarely invoked, and when invoked it is for brief periods of time (up to several hours) when specific activities (e.g. trenching for cables, cleanup of pollutants, salvaging operations) render it unsafe for vessels to pass.

d. Page 3-32, Figure 3-5 states that the CG District Commander initiates State Water Quality Certification, Coastal Zone Management certification, and appropriate environmental documentation. It is true that these documents are required for finalization of Coast Guard Bridge Permit recommendations for either permit approval or denial. However, they are not prepared by the Coast Guard, but by the permit applicant.

e. Page 3-33. Please note our address has changed. Our address is Commander (pow-2) Eleventh Coast Guard District Bridge Section, Building 50-6, Coast Guard Island, Alameda, CA 94501-5100. The phone number remains (510) 437-3514.

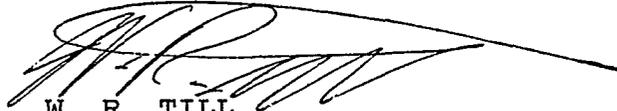
f. Page 3-3. Immediately following the caption How to Apply for a Permit, please add a brief paragraph stating that applicants considering construction of a new bridge, or modification to an existing bridge should contact the Bridge Section for a Bridge Permit Application Guide.

g. Page 3-33, fourth bullet. Please add the words "public" in front of "notice" in line 3, and revise the phrase "public hearings" in line 8 to read "a public hearing, if requested has been held...".

h. Page 3-33, fifth bullet. Please amend the statement regarding water quality certification and coastal zone management consistency certification. These documents are not required prior to applying for the bridge permit, but must be furnished by the permit applicant prior to Coast Guard finalization of Bridge Permit recommendations.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Jerry Olmes or me at (510) 437-3514 if we may answer any other questions.

Sincerely,



W. R. TILL
Chief, Bridge Section
By direction of the District Commander