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CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM

MAY 04 1998

Public Comment

Date 5/1/98

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program welcomes your participation. Please use the space below for your written comments (attach additional sheets if necessary).

Comments:

(See attached)

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5/1/98

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is a construction program. Considerations such as what the natural scheme of things in the area is have not been adequately addressed. A look at the display maps tells all. In the past the Delta was transformed into a sort of Little Holland. Too often men say to cure this or that we will build a dam or a levee or a dike. The best example is right here in downtown Santa Cruz. Why? Because development has been allowed in unsuitable areas? Why hasn't this been examined before permits were granted? Men like to build; it is their solution to all problems. We have seen a lot of these solutions slide into the floods or the ocean. What we should be doing is stepping back and examining every policy governing growth:

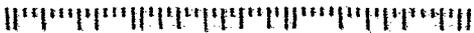
1. Farmland must not be allowed to be replaced by urban development. Currently, the U.S. policy appears to be to attempt to feed the world (look at those ADM ads on TV!) yet there is talk of taking farmland out of production. Why do we have 2 contradictory policies? Are either of them the answer?

2. Why are we allowing crops such as cotton (high water use) to be grown in areas where water is scarce, and then try to remedy the situation by irrigation and aquaducts?

3. Why are people in scarce water areas allowed to build pretentious homes which have multiple bathrooms with 150 gallon hot tubs? I actually saw one of these places in Carmel Highlands!

4. Why is development allowed in areas like the San Lorenzo Valley where septic tanks are required? Silt and sewage always find their way to the river. I don't need to tell you what happens in flood years.

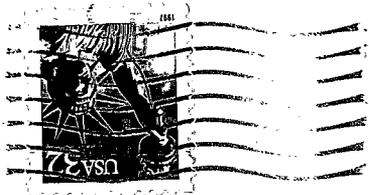
In conclusion, why must we accomodate traditional wasteful farming methods and unceasing immigration if our natural environment cannot accomodate them? Building ever more engineering marvels solves nothing, nor does allowing unlimited water use in the Land Of Little Rain.



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