



# Sierra Pacific Industries

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Mr. Lester Snow, Executive Director  
CalFed Bay-Delta Program  
Sacramento, CA

April 30, 1998

MAY 07 1998

Dear Mr. Snow:

Sierra Pacific Industries, as an affected stakeholder in the upper watersheds of the Bay-Delta program, wishes to offer the following comments and recommendations on your proposals currently out for public review:

(1) To date, the CalFed analysis *has not placed enough emphasis on the effects of upper watershed management activities*. We believe there are significant opportunities to improve the quality, yield, and timing of water into the existing system while protecting public trust resources. However, all the CalFed analysis (so far) seems to start with water releases **below** the existing dams, not in the watersheds **above** these dams.

(2) CalFed does not really have a strategy to achieve a consensus objective. Instead, it appears that you have proposed a process to assemble some people who will, in turn, develop the strategy **and** the objective (presumably, through consensus). In other words, *you have a strategy to develop a strategy, but not a clearly defined objective*.

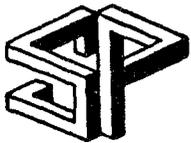
(3) The *primary objective* of the CalFed "stakeholders" groups should be to analyze and test field methods in the upper watersheds *that increase water yield, maintain and improve water quality, and favorably control water releases into the system without any significant decreases in the existing air quality standards or beneficial uses of water*. Their assignment should be to determine how we increase the overall water supply while protecting our environment, not to argue about who gets the existing supplies.

(4) In so doing, you should *limit all expenditures of funds so that at least 80% of the money goes for actual, on-the-ground project work – not paperwork – and include third party monitoring within the administrative charges*. Don't let this process turn into another Option 9 (Clinton Forest Plan), where all the money goes for meetings, plans, studies, and seminars but nothing changes out in these watersheds. Given human nature and a general lack of accountability within government at all levels, the best way to insure that this does not happen is to *impose a strict cap on administrative costs*.

Sincerely,



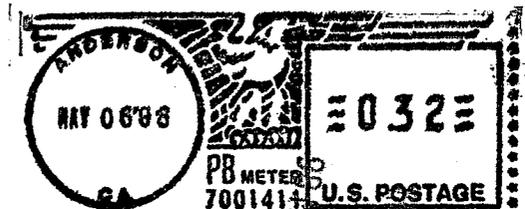
Tom Nelson  
Director of Timberlands



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