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MAY 11 1998

May 6, 1998

CALFED Bay-Delta Program  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Project Alternatives

It seems very clear to me that since the Programmatic EIS/EIR states that all the alternatives meet the four programs/goals, and portions of Alternative 1 is in Alternative 2, and both 1 & 2 are in 3, why not first build Alternative 1. If that doesn't reach the degree of satisfaction, then build Alternative 2, it has Alt. 1 in it.

~~Then if Alternative 2 is still not producing what is required, at a last resort do Alternative 3. By the time this option comes around enough years will have passed so the public will not remember nor know of the defeat of the Peripheral Canal.~~

If you try to build Alternative 3 in the present time, you know there is enough of the public still alive that remembers the 1980's defeat of the old Peripheral Canal concept. You call it Alternative 3, but it is still the Peripheral Canal, and you can expect another fight.

Another thought on building the program in stages by first doing Alternative 1, enough time will have passed so that if it is necessary to do Alt. 2, an adequate and workable fish screens will have been developed. Also, with time, the habitat will have regrown in the areas modified as it does in the Delta.

I remember the brouhaha in the 1960's, when the Corps of Engineers striped and rocked a number of levees in the north Delta. Today, you can hardly see the rock because the vegetation has come back so heavy.

My problem with a Peripheral Canal is: Who will control the canal's operation? I have been living in this Delta for 38 years and have been involved in trying to protect the Delta, and if "they" (whoever it is) operate the canal like they do the releases from the various dams supplying water to the Delta. Beware! The "guy" with his hand on the valve apparently has no idea of what the water he is releasing will do to the levees downstream, when that water meets and mixes with the extremely high tides that may be in the Delta at that time. Delta history proves this. If politics controls the canal operations, the Delta, as we know it today, is going to die because the political clout will always demand exporting water at the expense of everything else. Again, history proves it is the nature of the beast.

I am totally aware of Delta/water politics, I was a member of the Delta Advisory Planning Committee from its beginning to its demise, when the Delta Protection agency was organized.

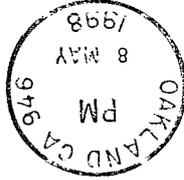
Thanks for letting me have my say.



DEPARTMENT OF  
WATER RESOURCES  
SACRAMENTO

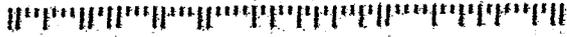
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