May 11, 1998

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I am writing about the CALFED process, which is planning California's future water policy. I have reviewed the plans, and find major fault in all three alternatives. In my opinion, CALFED should reject these alternatives, and create a fourth "Smart Alternative."

Canal and dam projects are less urgently needed if the plan highlights & prioritizes conservation programs, including economic incentives for more efficient water use. Californians currently use water as if it was an unlimited entitlement, which it is not. This use comes at the expense of other uses, such as wildlife, rivers, wetlands, & fish. Agibusiness is the greatest abuser of water, and their use of water should not be subsidized by public water projects, especially those made of concrete. This policy is shortsighted at best.

Sustainable water policy must provide for farms, families, and businesses, but must also preserve

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and restore watersheds. Without restoring & protecting watersheds for healthy & reliable water, neither people nor nature will survive the current growth of California's human population. This is the sustainable, long-sighted view that the CALFED process has omitted.

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cc: Vice President Al Gore

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