

Daniel Silver, M.D.
1422 N. Sweetzer Ave., #401
Los Angeles, CA 90069-1528

MAY 12 1998

May 10, 1998

Lester Snow
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: CALFED Draft EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Snow:

The opportunity to comment on this important document is appreciated. Please consider the following comments:

1. Water conservation measures are insufficient.

As a life-long Southern Californian, I believe that the document seriously underestimates the potential for water efficiency in my region. If you or your staff had lived here during the last drought, you would have experienced first-hand the willingness of the populace to conserve water and their basic understanding that we live in a semi-arid region. People are not stupid, and please don't treat them that way! What is missing in your plan are the steps necessary to capitalize on this willingness and understanding.

Not only is there under-utilization of reclamation and efficiency in urban areas, but on agricultural lands, as well. As much agricultural production is heavily subsidized (water, price supports, drainage), it makes sense to retire lands which have drainage or salinity problems, and to reduce subsidies to low value crops.

In urban and agricultural areas, water pricing which incentivizes conservation is needed. For households, after a set amount of water per household or per person (so as to not penalize the poor) is used, higher rates should progressively kick in. There is no excuse for the waste we experience daily from hosing down sidewalks, leaving faucets running, etc. Furthermore, a whole range of efficiency measures, such as low-flow fixtures, should be mandatory.

In addition to increasing reclamation capacity, funding would be well-spent in investing in the infrastructure necessary to bring reclaimed water to points where it can be used. Currently, much reclaimed water passes unused down the concrete LA River simply because it cannot be transferred to end-use points.

2. Structural measures are given unwarranted precedence.

There is far too much emphasis on expensive structural measures, such as dams and diversions. A case in point appears to be the \$3.8 billion to enlarge Shasta Dam.

3. Habitat restoration is crucial.

I generally support the restoration objectives for Central Valley streams and rivers, and stress that the goal of CALFED must be true restoration far above and beyond minimal Endangered Species Act requirements.

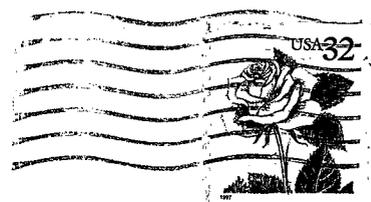
Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Silver", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dan Silver, M.D.

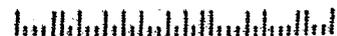
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DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES
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