

Robin Jenkins, 10:26 AM 5/7/98 -, Some views about CalFed

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 X-Mailer: QUALCOMM Windows Eudora Pro Version 3.0.5 (32)
 Date: Thu, 07 May 1998 10:26:33 -0700
 To: wendyh@water.ca.gov, rickb@water.ca.gov
 From: Robin Jenkins <rjenkins@water.ca.gov>
 Subject: Some views about CalFed

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X-Sender: cdarling@goldeneye
 X-Mailer: QUALCOMM Windows Eudora Pro Version 3.0.5 (32)
 Date: Thu, 07 May 1998 10:04:41 -0700
 To: rjenkins@water.ca.gov
 From: Cindy Darling <cdarling@water.ca.gov>
 Subject: Some views about CalFed

these look like EIR comments to me. can you taa? Thanks cindy>

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Date: Wed, 06 May 1998 16:31:42 -0700
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 To: Cindy Darling
 Subject: Some views about CalFed

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Ms. Darling,

As, on the advice of Rod Fujita, I have tried to reach you by phone, but unsuccessfully, I send you this e-mail. Having assisted to CalFed project public hearings I have noticed a great discontent among the different stakeholders (farmers, environmentalists, fisher -men and -women associations) about the recent released Interim Report. I have to say I was surprised by the violence of the reactions and the words that an important part of them had for the proposed solutions. Obviously, the CalFed project cannot ignore the users neither their practices in terms of agriculture, industry and housing activities.

I have remarked in your reports that you address different issues, describing the problems, and proposing for most of them accurate solutions. But for some of these problems (e.g. the upper-watershed management), I don't see a global strategy to solve them satisfactorily. You evoke technical solutions to:

- increase the water-ground level;
- improve the meadow water retention;
- reduce salinity of water;
- control water and wind erosion in order to reduce sediments;

but we don't see how implementation of real measures can occur. These issues, which are linked to small-scale activities (farming), are excluded of the project framework and the responsibility of their implementation rejected at the local level; however, we don't see with which resources and actors, actions will be implemented, even though we are aware of the influence of these phenomena on the lower-watershed.

On the contrary, for most of these issues, the recent report could tend to crystallize adverse positions (Obviously, I think in the first place to the farmers). It looks like if CalFed avoids going to deeply into small-scale and local problems. At that stage of the process, everybody is aware that measures at small-scale level cannot be defined very precisely. Everybody is very pleased by the adopted approach, the so-called "Adaptive Management", which can be associated to Action Research concept. However, even if pilot programs are invoked, it is neither clear how far the users will be directly involved in the design and implementation of those activities nor the part of finance resources available for pilot programs. The discontent of people can maybe be mitigated if the

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report was more precise about those points. This would give the impression to the different stakeholders to be really taken into account and to participate to the decision process.

An another point (which can be linked, to a certain extent, to the previous points) seems me problematic. Agriculture, systematically, is considered as an enemy of environment. Why couldn't we address the problem differently and try to define agricultural ecosystems in which the present of insects, all kind of invertebrates, birds and small mammals could represent a warranty and indicators of sustainable farming systems. Shouldn't we look for ways to generalize application of edges, windbreaks and agronomic practices (such integrated pest-management, improved rotations cropping and extension of meadows vs. intensive monoculture)? Such measures not only, contribute *per se* to bio-diversity, enhancement of the landscape architecture (tourism and entertainment of local population) and soil fertility, but they also have a great impact on the down-stream water management and ecosystems. However, to solve these problems we have to work with the main actors, i.e. the farmers and see with them what kind of actions can be undertaken. In those situations, action research and pilot programs, if well designed, can be very effective scientific and negotiation tools to reach the previous objectives.

You may find the above considerations more or less pertinent, you may think they could respond in a way or another to the concerns of people of your team, private companies or environmental NGOs involved in these issues. If it were the case, I would appreciate you to contact me by e-mail or phone to exchange about that and see if I could be from any help. I would be very pleased to get involved myself in this important project and more than interesting challenge. Therefore, I would be interested getting in touch with consultants, NGOs or any organization "struggling" with the exposed issues. In California for a period of 2 years, I am looking for an activity in my field. I attach to this e-mail my resume in order to let you judge of my skills and interests. At least, if you think it could be useful to meet us and discuss about ways to find solutions to those problems I would be very pleased to come to Sacramento.

I am aware, that in those days of Interim Report issue, however I hope you will find some time to read me and give me some feed back. I am looking forward to read or hear you.

Best regards

Pascal Bernardoni

Attachment: 1 resume (word 97 for windows, version 8.0)

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