



May 14, 1998

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Mr. Lester Snow
Executive Director
CALFED
1416 9th Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

On behalf of Mesa Consolidated Water District (Mesa), we would like to thank you for acting on our letter requesting an Orange County public hearing. We appreciate the opportunity to appear at and provide our position on the importance of the CALFED Bay-Delta process.

In addition to Director Trudy Ohlig-Hall stating Mesa's position, which is described below, four members of the community including Ed Fawcett, Jay Yett, Rod Lewis and Neil Horgan addressed the public hearing committee.

Mesa affirms the necessity of the CALFED program to determine a long-range ecosystem restoration plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Rivers Delta.

This restoration plan involves highly complex scientific and technical decisions. Of the three alternatives presented for public consideration, the Mesa Consolidated Water District Board of Directors urges CALFED to adopt an alternative that will:

- a) be based upon the best science and technology;
- b) provide the highest quality water;
- c) provide certainty of water deliveries through the State Water Project;
- d) develop the reforms necessary to institute a water transfer process;
- e) and, recognize the current implementation of best management practices and other methods to void or reduce reliance upon import water by water agencies through credits assigned on a regional basis tied to river basins.

Mr. Neil Horgan, past president of the Mesa Verde Homeowners Association, explained how Mesa provided and encouraged conservation methods included in the Best Management Practices (BMPs). He gave examples of Mesa's conservation programs such as Ultra Low Flush Toilets, and the Water Issues Study Group (Mesa's adult education program). Mr. Horgan also stated that during the last drought, 1989 to 1991, Mesa ratepayers voluntarily reduced usage by 15%.

Mr. Ed Fawcett, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce, stressed the importance of water transfers as an element critical to the success of the Bay-Delta program. He pointed out that agencies should be required to show that they are already making efficient use of existing water supplies, and that taxpayers should not have to pay market price for subsidized water in water transfers.

*Mesa Consolidated
Water District's mission
is to serve our customers
through efficient
management and
distribution of a sufficient
supply of quality water
at a fair cost.*

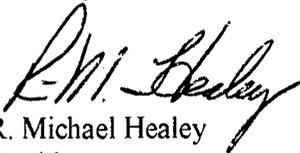
Lester Snow
May 14, 1998
Page 2

Mr. Jay Yett, Professor of Geology at Orange Coast College, expressed his concern for water as a resource. He explained Mesa's colored water source and treatment program, which his students researched and presented their findings to our Board. He also questioned the seismic risk of the levees in the area and asked how the levees will respond to the high impact of an earthquake.

Mr. Rod Lewis, an alumnus of Mesa's WISG, spoke briefly about the importance of a future water supply. He explained that the levees are being destroyed. He also expressed his concerns for Alternative #2, claiming that recreation needs to be addressed for Alternative #2 to be a viable solution. Mr. Lewis said that recreation should be a selling point for both Northern California and Southern California with regards to Alternative #2

Mesa is the only local water agency that has followed this process for the last five years. We encourage you to take into consideration our position and those of our community members. If you have further questions or more information, please call (949) 631-1206.

Sincerely,


R. Michael Healey
President

C: Mesa Board of Directors
Karl Kemp, General Manager
Diana Leach, Assistant General Manager