

JUN 04 1998

June 3, 1998

Mr Rich Breitenback
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St - Ste 1155
Sacramento CA 95814

RE: Comments on CALFED Bay-Delta Program Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR

Mr Breitenback:

I am a resident of Calaveras County, which is situated on the east side of the Northern San Joaquin Valley. Calaveras County serves as watershed for the Calaveras, Mokelumne and Stanislaus Rivers.

The Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR does not appear to protect the area of origin's water rights, which is essential to the current and future economic base of our county.

None of the three identified alternatives appear to do anything more than divert water of a Northern California origin to Southern California. In order to be effective, the plan must include significantly more impoundment facilities than is currently included. This could be accomplished by building the Auburn Dam, raising Shasta Dam and New Melones Dam and perhaps others. The plan should also include water holding facilities south of the Tehachapi Mountains, as well as desalinization facilities to convert ocean water to potable water.

Alternative #3 appears to be the Peripheral Canal reincarnated. This alternative should be dropped from all consideration immediately. The state's voters rejected this concept in 1982. It would remove the common pool concept with regards to maintaining water quality in the Delta by diverting water for transport south to a storage facility, leaving reduced flows of poor quality water in the Delta.

The Draft EIR appears to grossly underestimate the economic impact to the San Joaquin Delta and surrounding region. It does not take into account the impact of converting private land to public land would have on tax supported agencies in the region. It does not fully consider the impact that retirement of agricultural lands will have on the region, the State, or the nation, and our future ability to feed ourselves.

No matter which alternative is selected, all currently available public land must be used for habitat restoration before even 1 acre of private land is taken.

It would appear that the creation of a 4th alternative is in order. Such an alternative should conform to all existing laws, provide for substantially more water storage, reduce potential impacts to agriculture (especially prime agricultural land), maximize water conservation, minimize conversion of private land and consider desalinization facilities in Southern California to increase potable water supplies.

Thank You for your consideration of these comments and concerns regarding the CALFED Bay-Delta Programmatic EIS/EIR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jearl D. Howard".

Jearl D. Howard
6971 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas CA 95249

DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES
SACRAMENTO

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Mr Rich Breitenback
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St - Ste 1155
Sacramento CA 95814

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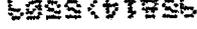
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