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# HERMAN & HELEN'S MARINA JUN 04 1998

Venice Island Ferry  
Stockton, CA 95219  
(209) 951-4634

June 3, 1998

Rick Breitenbach  
CALFED Bay Delta Program  
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Breitenbach:

I am writing in response to the public notice concerning the EIR for the plans for the California Delta. The draft EIR as written is so non specific that it is impossible to tell what you have in mind for Recreation. Recreation in the Delta is a major business with significant impact of lots of people as well as the natural environment. We are afraid that you will do things to hurt the recreation business, and we feel that it would be wrong to do that.

You have elements in the plan dealing with the sale of water from people who own water rights to people who are potential users. I would like to see you expand on this concept significantly.

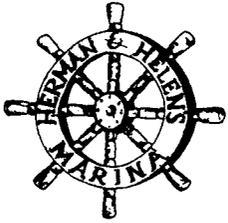
I do not believe you should allow anyone to pump water from an underground aquifer to use for export outside of the area from which the water is pumped. But when you are dealing with the water in the river that will run into the ocean if not diverted for use first, I believe you should allow, and in fact encourage, the sale of water from upstream water rights holders to downstream users who need additional water. The impact would be to eliminate the shortage of water completely, because there are a lot of agricultural users who would rather sell their water than continue to farm. The prices that would prevail on an open market would be much cheaper than what the cities are paying for their water right now. Everyone would benefit from such a voluntary program.

While such a program might reduce certain types of farming, the fact that it is voluntary means the only people who would stop farming are the ones who want to anyway. There is no reason for the water community to subsidize water inefficient farming either for the sake of keeping farmland in use or for the sake of preserving some kind of lifestyle. If the amount that the water can be sold for is more than the amount that can be produced from the land by agricultural use, the water should be diverted, and the failure to do so is a subsidy of inefficient farming.

It is essential to rebuild and improve the levee system in order to preserve the Delta as it is, both for water transportation use and for agricultural and recreational uses. We really do not need to produce more water in California. We have enough. We only need to provide for the allocation of water based on economics.



Yours very truly,  
David M. Smith, President



HERMAN & HELENS MARINA

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Stockton, Calif. 95219  
(209)951-4634

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