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Madrone Audubon Society
INCORPORATED

May 28, 1998

Mr. Rick Breitenbach
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr Breitenbach,

Madrone Audubon Society, a chapter of National Audubon Society, consists of approximately 1800 members in Sonoma County. We are very much concerned over the joint state and federal plans (CALFED) to improve the Delta.

There is no question that both the Delta and the San Francisco Bay estuaries need improvement. We seriously question the Department of Interior's failure to implement the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) signed by President Bush in 1992. Six years have gone by and the 800,000 acre feet of water per year to restore the Bay-Delta Estuary's environmental health has been denied. The Department of Interior has now decided to cut in half this water allotment that was passed by Congress and endorsed by the President. This is totally unacceptable.

Now CALFED's EIS/EIR is proposing some very costly plans to "fix" the Bay-Delta estuaries. We question whether the environmental degradation of these estuaries can be remedied by building more diversions and dams when the present problems have been caused by water diversions and dams in the first place.

Madrone Audubon strongly opposes the following in the CALFED EIS/EIR:

1. All alternatives that involve construction of new dams and canals, and particularly the Peripheral Canal. In 1982 the citizens of California voted overwhelmingly against such a structure and that vote should stand!

2. The proposed upper watershed forest management and Delta hydraulics restoration objectives. The wildfire threat in the upper watersheds cannot be reduced by increased logging, and the Delta's flow problems cannot be resolved by building more diversions and dams.

Madrone does support the proposed Central Valley restoration objectives for stream flows, water temperature, stream meander, flood plain management and riparian/riverine habitat, including all sensitive, threatened, and endangered species. These proposed restoration objectives are absolutely essential to mitigate the impacts of the present water facilities.

We also urge that CALFED expand water efficiency, reclamation, and conservation programs so that existing water supplies will go farther, instead of building damaging new canals and dams. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the EIS/EIR.

Sincerely

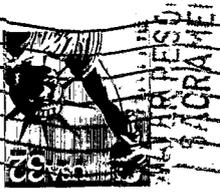
Joanne Dranginis
President, Madrone Audubon

cc: Lester Snow

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