

## COMMENTS:

JUN 02 1998

I would like to begin my comments by simply stating that "CONSERVATION CAN GET THE JOB DONE". The people of California have to learn that our water resources are limited and they have to understand that conservation of our water is essential if we want to continue the good life in our state. I practiced water conservation during our prolonged drought a few years ago and I also was able to store 5,000 gallons of rainwater with which I watered my lawns till the month of October. I had gone to a cannery and collected approximately 100 barrels which could store 55 gallons of rain water. I also use the water from the kitchen sink for watering the garden - water that does not contain any soap. Although the barrels are now gone, I have fond memories of all that rain water - what amazed me was how acidic the water was - looked like soap water.

I believe that we should take a close look at some of the crops that are grown and possibly eliminate the ones that are wasting millions of gallons of our precious water - cotton being just one example.

CALFED should maximize groundwater storage thereby hopefully eliminating any need for more dams. You can build all the dams you want, but if the people do not practice genuine water conservation, all the dam building would be useless. In short, building more dams is a damned bad idea.

We need a peripheral canal as much as we need El Nino.

I believe that the best way to proceed should be to work with our natural environment and to help protect our rivers and our forests and our wetlands. It seems that we are always going around fighting nature and developing our wetlands and destroying our forests for more lumber and profit and then when we see all the damage we have wrought we call for the corps of engineers to go out and do more damage by building this and that. The corps has the track record of doing more harm than good - ( I watch 60 minutes! )

I believe that you should extend the period for public comment and that you should broaden your study to also consider what great benefits to our water resources would occur if we were able to speed up the replacement of the internal combustion engine with electric vehicles. Wouldn't it be nice if we no longer had our rivers and bays contaminated by oil and gasoline products.

I have a feeling that this CALFED process review is flawed by political concerns and that for some reason you are in a great hurry to close off public comment and go about your predetermined plans - as the speaker from LA said that the tunnels and pipes are already constructed and just waiting for the water!

About 40 years ago I was visiting a friend and his father interrupted us and said something that I never forgot. His father was a businessman and may have had a bad day. He hardly ever said anything to us and he had our attention. Roy simply said "You know boys,"our economy is built on waste". I believe that can also be said about our state water policies and the federal water policies. Millions of gallons of water evaporating into the desert from open canals is but one example.

I do not enjoy saying this but it seems that you are determined to forget the past mistakes and move on with the corps of engineers and continue the wasteful practices of the past which got us into the mess. My advice is to slow down, disregard the politicians and open up your process and take in some new partners - try to learn all you can from environmental experts - they are not the enemy, they have the answers and the necessary knowledge. The answers are not going to come from the politicians and the special interests. The answers and going to come from environmental experts and from those people who genuinely care for and respect our environment.

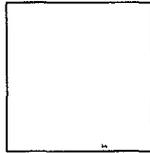
*Tom Aldridge*



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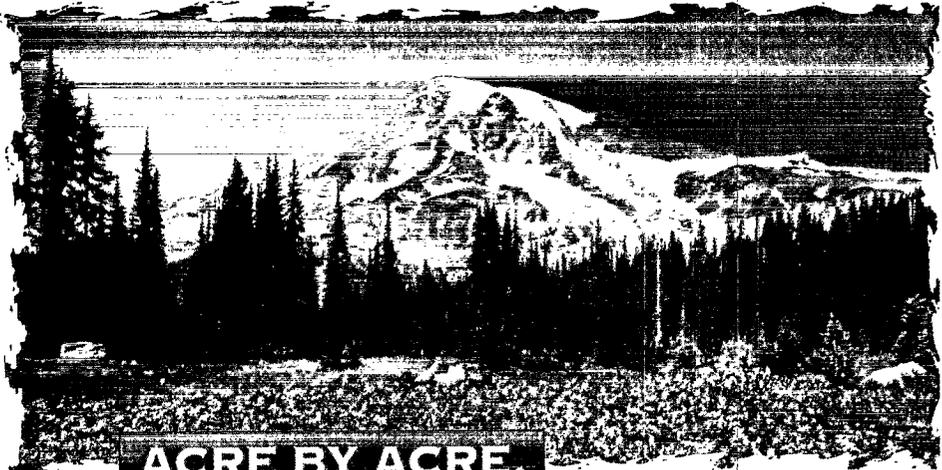
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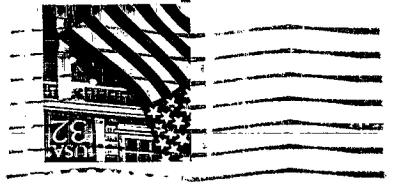
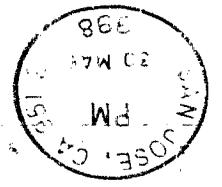
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