



COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

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JUN 09 1998

Board of Supervisors

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June 1, 1998

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

Dear Mr. Breitenbach:

Subject: Response to Draft EIS/EIR for CALFED Bay-Delta Program

A letter is being forwarded on behalf of the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors identifying comments, questions, and areas of concern shared by our constituency. This letter is intended to provide a brief policy-oriented perspective of our views.

The well being of Siskiyou County depends largely upon natural resources. Clearly, water has become the commodity of greatest demand. With increased frequency, our water resources are viewed by others as available "surplus," i.e., water which northern California doesn't need and may be put to more beneficial use elsewhere. We must question this premise.

It is vital to our stability that any change in the use of our water resources is subject to local controls. To meet this goal, we strongly suggest that assurances be included to involve the County in policy formation and that other agencies adhere to these commitments. Local partnerships should be developed starting from the bottom up in developing watershed management strategies. We encourage that local expertise provide a significant role in developing policies that will ultimately govern our most valued resource. An equal share of information should be sought from local stakeholders (RCDs, CRMPs, USFS, County).

In developing any alternative to include export of our water, consideration must be given to protect the "county of origin" standing. We are aware that area-of-origin laws are not supported by the Bureau of Reclamation. To satisfy our concerns in this matter,

JOAN T. SMITH
District 1

LA VADA ERICKSON
District 2

BILL HOY
District 3

JERRY GIARDINO
District 4

KAY M. BRYAN
District 5

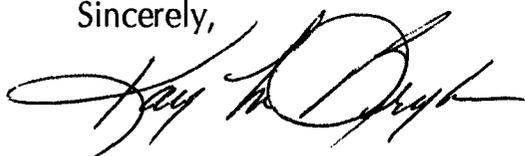
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
Page 2 of 2
June 1, 1998

we recommend a Memorandum of Understanding or an Agreement for federal assurances be built into the project alternatives. Such an agreement should be a minimum remedy.

Another significant concern in dealing with a project of this magnitude and the unknown consequences likely to result, is the cost associated with those impacts. Local jurisdictions cannot be expected to bear the financial responsibility. To assure a level of trust is developed and the taxpayer is not burdened, funding sources must be clearly identified from all participating agencies.

We have been advised that the Draft EIS/EIR is likely to be revised. Please keep us apprised as the project evolves. We will reserve the opportunity to address our concerns with greater specificity until the revisions are provided.

Sincerely,



Kay M. Bryan, Chair
Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

WV:lrf

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