



COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

Planning Department

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RICHARD D. BARNUM
PLANNING DIRECTOR

Memorandum

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Wayne Virag, Assistant Planning Director *Wayne*

Date: June 2, 1998

Subject: CALFED Bay-Delta Program EIS/EIR

As you are aware, the Draft EIS/EIR (Draft) for the CALFED Bay-Delta program has been released. We are organizing with other counties under the direction of CSAC to provide comments in the interest of all. John Mills, an attorney specializing in water issues, is coordinating this effort for CSAC.

I spoke with Mr. Mills to better acquaint myself with our objectives and a suitable strategy. He shared his insights on the progress of the proposal and advised that the Draft will be replaced with a new document at year end. He advises that we view the current Draft as an administrative document only. Apparently, the Draft is so fraught with discrepancies and raises so many issues, the Feds have elected to scrap it and write a fresh one. Mr. Mills also shared his belief that changes in the State's administration following the election are likely to alter the CALFED program entirely. He suggested we "conserve our powder" for future participation and provide a brief, cursory letter summarizing our policy concerns. This would ensure the County has exhausted its administrative remedies. Our office intends to follow the advice of his counsel and provide a brief letter. A copy of the letter to CALFED is attached.

To ensure Mr. Mills is aware of issues of local importance, he was provided a copy of a letter from Supervisor Hoy regarding the DWR's Water Purchase Program and summary of our policy issues provided by Supervisor Erickson. The issues in the DWR letter are similar, and LaVada did a commendable job summarizing our concerns in a recent speech. Should you wish to discuss the topic further, please feel free to contact me.

Board of Supervisors
OF
SISKIYOU COUNTY
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