

PACIFIC WOOD FUELS COMPANY

3085 Crossroads Drive  
Redding, CA 96003  
530 224 3305  
Fax 530 224 3310

June 3, 1998

CALFED Bay Delta Program  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite #1155  
Sacramento, California 95814

Summarized below are my comments from testimony given at the May 20, 1998 CALFED public hearing on the draft programmatic EIS/EIR at Yuba City, California: It is clear that the draft programmatic EIS/EIR in its current form DOES NOT address watershed management activities in the upland watersheds. In fact, of the approximately 3500 pages devoted to this document less than 10 pages (approximately .3%) address the opportunity to improve water yields, water quality and timing of flow in the upland watersheds.

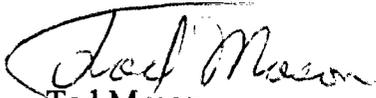
An estimated 200 million acre feet of water fall as precipitation on California each year (during an average year) most of which fall upon coniferous forests. Plant evapotranspiration returns about 2/3rds of this precipitation back into the atmosphere with the remaining 70 million-acre feet staying on the landscape. Much of these 70 million-acre feet however, are not available for agriculture or domestic use because a large portion flows into wild and scenic rivers. There are significant opportunities to reduce the impact of evapotranspiration by thinning strategic areas of California's forest that currently have far too many trees per acre. Thinning these forested acres would not only improve water availability but would:

- Significantly improve forest health
- Mitigate the potential of catastrophic wildfires impacting forests and watersheds.
- Restore upland meadow aquifers
- Improve both the quality and timing of water flows.
- Address the unnaturally large amounts of vegetation built up after 100 years of successful fire suppression.

Northern California has witnessed a number of well-intentioned government studies and draft EIS/EIR projects. Unfortunately many of these projects committed most of their available resources – personnel and funding, away from on the ground project work and into committee meetings and continuous studies. It is important that CALFED expenditures of resources limit time and money spent on meeting and overhead and maximize expenditures for on the ground project work. There should be a strict cap on all administrative expenditures.

In closing it is clear from the Yuba City hearing that most of CALFED's resources have been spent addressing water conveyance structures and water storage however, it is important that CALFED not discount the source of this precious commodity known as water. The source of California's water is primarily the upland watersheds and these watersheds are in real need of restoration.

Sincerely,



Tad Mason

Registered Professional Forester #2156

cc: Steve Fitch-Assemblymen Tom Woods office  
Kevin Dunn-Congressman Wally Herger's office  
M.J. McFadden  
Chris Trott  
Bob Allen

F:\RHONDA\WORDDOC\MEMO\230.doc

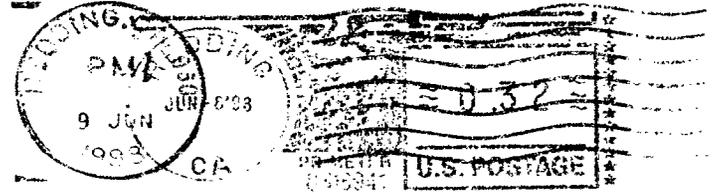
**OGDEN**

POWER PACIFIC, INC.

PACIFIC WOOD FUELS COMPANY

3085 Crossroads Drive  
Redding, CA 96003

CALFED Bay Delta Program  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite #1155  
Sacramento, California 95814



98 JUN 10 AM 10:39

MAIL ROOMS  
SACRAMENTO



  
Printed on recycled paper

C-011279

C-011279