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June 17, 1998

Lester Snow, Executive Director  
CALFED Bay-Delta Program  
1416 9th Street, Suite 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Dear Mr. Snow:

The Chico Chamber of Commerce, who's nearly 1,000 members provide the economic well being of much of Butte County and the Northern Sacramento Valley through their businesses, have some specific concerns about CALFED proposals. We support the CALFED process and your efforts in solving environmental, water supply reliability and water quality problems in the Bay-Delta region. We recognize that this complex process attempts to satisfy environmental goals, the needs of California farmers, and the demands of industries, businesses and urban residents all at the same time.

The Chico Chamber of Commerce believes there are important items which must be included in this plan to insure its success. These issues are addressed as follows:

- CALFED will fail if it doesn't live up to its underlying promise, that "everyone gets better together." That means that not only must environmental goals be met, but the needs of California's farmers, industries, businesses and urban residents must also be addressed.
- New water storage **must** be part of the solution. The pressure of California's rapidly increasing population demands that the state enlarge its available water supply. We will need water to support 50 million people, while maintaining agriculture, businesses and the environment. We cannot achieve those goals through conservation alone. Farmers and industry will continue efforts to improve water efficiency, but it's not a "one-size-fits-all" solution as some will claim. We should also work to save the excess water that falls on the state during flood years, conserving it in reservoirs for use when it's needed to meet both environmental and human needs during coming droughts. New water storage will be "fish friendly". New storage is key to meeting fishery needs, especially in dry years.
- CALFED must not diminish water rights, and must not base its solutions on redirection of agricultural water and conversion of farmland to other uses. Water rights holders must have their rights protected and even strengthened. The government's long-standing promise to protect area of origin water rights must be honored. CALFED must not base its solutions on redirection of agricultural water and conversion of farmland. Farmers and industry want CALFED to succeed, but will not support a solution that does not benefit businesses and agriculture.

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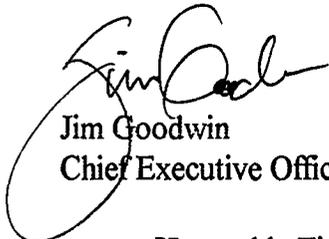
Lester Snow  
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Page 2

- The idea of the creation of a river meander through acquisition of land from willing sellers is completely unacceptable to Butte County and its residents. All the way up and down the Sacramento River we have vital infrastructure: bridges, towns, levees, flood relief structures, pumping plants, fish screens, and roads. These all need to be maintained and protected from the meandering river. Prior to the river threatening this infrastructure it needs to be controlled. We can't wait until a disaster has happened prior to taking action because at that point it is too late.

The Chico Chamber of Commerce approves of your efforts to find a long term solution to the water problems of the Delta and all of California. However, we cannot accept alternatives that do not benefit businesses in Northern California and especially Butte County. We at the Chico Chamber of Commerce recognize agri-business as our leading industry. If the above mentioned provisions are not included in the CALFED proposal, it will have a devastating effect on agriculture and our local economy. We believe the creation of new water storage, the preservation of existing water rights, protection of ground water rights and the control of rivers and streams needs to be an integral part of your final program.

Through the CALFED process it's important to keep our eyes on the finish line. We have an opportunity to solve the problems in the Delta and resolve California's pressing long-term water needs. However, the solution must be fair to everyone!

Sincerely,



Jim Goodwin  
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Honorable Tim Leslie  
Honorable Maurice Johannessen  
Honorable Bernie Richter  
Honorable Tom Woods



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