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Santa Clara Valley Water District



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June 16, 1998

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Mr. Lester Snow
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Lester:

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to comment on the Draft Programmatic EIR/EIS. We would like to commend you for your commitment to an open, stakeholder-driven process in developing a consensus package of solutions for issues facing the Bay-Delta. We would also like to commend the Program staff for their hard work and perseverance in developing a comprehensive program under a very demanding schedule.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) is the water resource management agency for Santa Clara County. The residents and businesses of the county, or "Silicon Valley", are looking forward to improved drinking water quality and improved water supply reliability as a result of the CALFED solution, while the environmental issues of the Bay-Delta are being addressed in a comprehensive fashion.

We understand that there are technical and assurances issues that require more time to be resolved. As an active stakeholder participating in the process, we also understand that there are still many issues to be resolved among the stakeholders such that consensus can be reached on the final package. In order to support the continuation of these important discussions, we urge CALFED to keep all the proposed elements of the CALFED solution on the table.

Furthermore, it is also critical that all the parties "get better together" since the implementation of the CALFED solution will take decades. We support early implementation of the ecosystem restoration program. We also need to see drinking water quality and water supply reliability start to improve along with environmental improvements. We expect the final solution package and the implementation to be equitable, affordable, and effective in achieving all of the objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

Enclosed are specific comments on the Draft Programmatic EIR/EIS, along with further discussion of the District's interests which we urge CALFED to consider in the development of a preferred alternative. Please feel free to contact Amy Fowler of my staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Stanley M. Williams
General Manager

Enclosure

