

01074
JUN 22 1998

Testimony to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program
Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report
Wayne H. Holcomb
President of the Board of Directors
Western Municipal Water District
Submitted June 17, 1998

On behalf of the Western Municipal Water District, I am hereby submitting our comments on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

Western is pleased to have this opportunity to submit comments and congratulates all parties involved in the CALFED process on the tremendous dedication and fortitude that has resulted in the development of some very real solutions to the problems in the Delta.

Western Municipal Water District was formed in 1954 for the primary purpose of securing a source of imported water to augment dwindling local supplies. We are located in western Riverside County and our District encompasses about 510 square miles, with a population of nearly one-half million people. Within Western's District are the cities and communities of Riverside, Corona, Lake Elsinore, Temecula, Norco, Jurupa, and Rubidoux. We sell these communities water on a wholesale basis and provide water to about 12,000 retail customers.

The District relies on the State Water Project for about 60 percent of this water. The Colorado River Aqueduct supplies the balance. The State Water Project water is treated at the Metropolitan Water District's Henry J. Mills Filtration Plant before delivery to Western's distribution system. In some communities we serve, these supplies are blended with local supplies. In others, there is 100% reliance on State Water Project water.

Needless to say, what happens in the Delta affects us and those we serve on the most intimate level — whether you're addressing water quality, water reliability, or water cost.

We support the overall process goal to restore the Bay-Delta ecosystem to self-sustaining health and improve the quality and reliability of water supplies. We are also in agreement with the common program elements: the ecosystem restoration program, water quality program, water use efficiency program, levee protection plan, water transfer policy framework, and watershed management coordination program and agree that each alternative must satisfy the six solution principles adopted by CALFED. We are in agreement in principle with all of these goals, programs, and principles. Our agreement, however, is tempered by one concern — a concern we are sure is shared by all stakeholders, whether those stakeholders are agricultural, environmental, or urban water interests: cost distribution.

We are concerned that the beneficiaries of each program component be identified and that the cost/benefit be fairly apportioned among the beneficiaries. We are convinced that the ultimate solution must not redirect impacts from one stakeholder to another. Because the Draft Environmental Impact

Testimony to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program
Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report
Wayne H. Holcomb
President of the Board of Directors
Western Municipal Water District
Submitted June 17, 1998
Page 2

Statement did not address cost apportionment, we cannot, at this time, make a statement as to our preferred alternative.

We have been strong supporters of the CALFED process thus far and will continue to be supportive. We are encouraged by the progress to date and the thoughtful analysis and consensus building that has gone into the process. The next logical step in the finalizing of a preferred program is to develop, along with the technical analysis, a comprehensive analysis of not only costs of the various alternatives, but the cost sharing/benefit distribution.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to submit these brief comments.

Respectfully submitted,


WAYNE H. HOLCOMB
President

Western Municipal Water District
PO Box 5286
Riverside CA 92517-5286



CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attn: Mr. Rick Breitenbach

98 JUN 22 AM 11:30

DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES
SACRAMENTO

C-011387

C-011387