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JUN 26 1998

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6/19/98

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

Re: Proposals for Shasta Lake Enlargement

Dear Mr. Snow:

The three options currently under consideration for Shasta Lake Enlargement share one common flaw: each results in substantial further destruction and obliteration of three irreplaceable rivers, the Upper Sacramento, the McCloud, and the Pit.

Rather than turning to the traditional "quick-fix" of pouring more concrete to back up more water, it's time to focus on alternatives that emphasize water conservation and utilization or enhancement of existing facilities that does *not* destroy precious watershed.

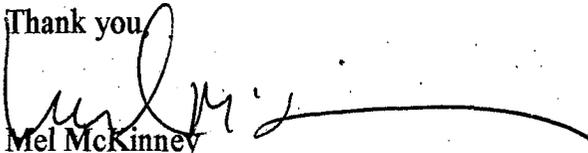
The Sites-Colusa pumped storage reservoir option and other storage sites further down the valley from Lake Shasta are far better suited for capturing annual rain runoff. Rather than spending proposed millions to enlarge Lake Shasta, and consequently further inundating a river as wild as the McCloud, funding alternatives such as Sites-Colusa provides a more efficient storage solution *without* destroying forever more miles of a resource we can no longer squander.

I urge CALFED to consider the longer range benefits of spending more of the proposed billions described in its October, 1997 study on innovative water-treatment processes as well as the water quality and environmental benefits of restoring freshwater flows to rivers, streams and the Bay/Delta. Pouring more concrete onto Shasta Dam and increasing its inefficiency as a storage facility is *not* the solution to this complex problem.

It was with excellent reason that the California Legislature blessed the McCloud River with special protection when they passed the California Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Public Resources Code Section 5093.50 et. seq.) In recognizing the need for preserving the McCloud's unique wild fishery, habitat, and beauty, the Legislature clearly intended to protect it from further inundation and destruction.

We are no longer users of our resources. We are trustees. Our actions must finally reflect our debt to the future. Rather than spending millions on a project that would destroy anywhere from two to eight miles of the McCloud River, we must find and implement another solution. The alternatives exist. Use them.

Thank you


Mel McKinney

cc: State Senator Byron Sher

State Senator Mike Thompson

Vice President Al Gore

Deputy Secretary John Garamendi,

U.S. Department of Interior

Governor Pete Wilson

U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer

Congressman Frank Riggs

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein

Virginia Strom-Martin

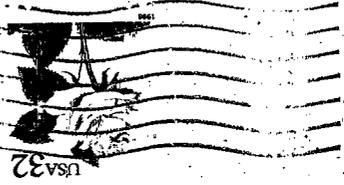
1st District State Assemblywoman

Tom Woods

2nd District State Assemblyman

State Senator Maurice Johannessen

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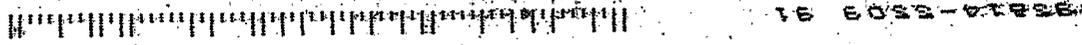
DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES
SACRAMENTO

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