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4947 Marshall Drive
Santa Rosa, CA. 95409
June 11, 1998

JUN 15 1998

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

Dear Mr. Snow,

I would like to make a few observations on the proposed CALFED plan. My first impression on reading about the plan is that it's really just business as usual, building more dams and diversions, and posing as a restoration plan. For any restoration effort to succeed it's going to be necessary to return the rivers to something approximating their original state and reduce human tinkering. A complete return to the pre-dam era is obviously impossible, but I think we can at least minimize impacts with some careful planning and re-thinking of methodologies.

The concept of off-stream storage has great potential. If it was up to me, I would design a system where the reservoirs were constructed in areas where there would be the least effect on habitat, for example low-lying valleys with seasonal streams that don't support fish populations. I would also supplement reservoirs with a system to recharge aquifers. Water diversions into the reservoirs would be done only during periods of high flows, leaving the streams as free flowing as possible.

Also, regarding agricultural water use, I think we need to consider just what we're doing with the water. The value of the crops being irrigated should justify the environmental damage caused by the water systems. It makes no sense to me to subsidize production of low value crops and in the process destroying high value seafood resources.

sincerely,



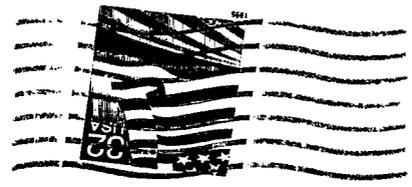
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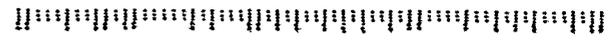
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