

01236
JUN 26 1998

Dear Executive Director Snow:

June 23, 1998

I am 54-years old and have been a California resident long enough to witness alarming changes in this state's natural environment. I fervently hope you and others in similar positions of leadership have been around long enough to see them as well, or at least have the education necessary to understand the monumental nature of what has happened to this state in just a few generations.

Geologically and biologically, California may be the most diverse and magnificently endowed piece of Earth one can find anywhere, but agriculture, grazing, mining, logging, urbanization, and industry have taken a huge toll.

Of the 1000 or so native California plant and wildlife communities, some have been completely destroyed, and most are down to the last 10% or less of the original fully functioning ecosystems.

Our marshlands and riparian areas were once, along with tropical rain forests, the most productive ecosystems on earth. They were breeding grounds for great populations of fish, shellfish, and waterfowl, and important rest and refueling areas for millions of migratory birds. We are also realizing, too late, that the healthy and intact ecosystems that once surrounded our waterways were very important to the cleansing and recharging of our above and below-ground water supplies.

Now these water-dependent wildlands are so reduced and degraded that only a few man-made or natural changes in their hydrological needs may push them past redemption. 91% of the California wetlands are gone. Of the existing coastal wetlands, 62% are rated by the California Coastal Commission as severely damaged. 96% of the tule marshlands in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta are gone. Nearly 62% of the water that once flowed into the wetlands of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta is now stored and diverted for agricultural, residential, and industrial purposes.

So much of the beauty, uniqueness, and health of the California landscape has been destroyed, and the rest is in jeopardy. We must redesign our state water allocation system to protect and restore more of our watersheds, wildlands, and wildlife, which have already sacrificed too much for the sake of short term economic development.

The great creativity, energy, and technology which human beings possess, and which have been responsible for what has happened to California in less than 150 years, could be redirected to finding ways to solve water problems other than the continued damming, diverting, and destroying of our waterways.

The great success of the human species is due to our creativity, intelligence, and adaptability. Yet we are willing to destroy the water, soil, air, and biological systems that ultimately support us in order to save ourselves from having to change jobs, investments, or lifestyles. Please choose a CalFed alternative which shows long-term vision, altruism, and faith in humanity's fortitude.

Thank you for your attention and conscientious leadership.

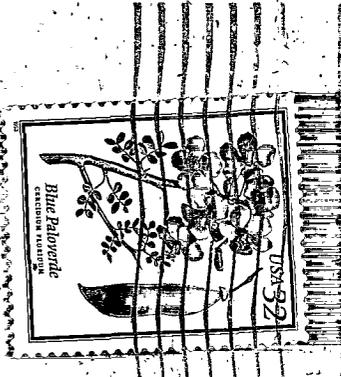
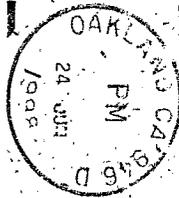


Joyce H. King 141 Santa Fe Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530



Joyce H. King
141 Santa Fe Ave.
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Jeanne Snow
Executive Director
Cal Fed Bay/Delta Program
1416 9th St.
Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca 95814



DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES
SACRAMENTO
98 JUN 26 AM 10:51