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June 16, 1998

CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814-5509

JUN 18 1998

Attention: Mr. Rick Breitenbach

Dear Mr. Breitenbach:

Bulletin 160-98: "THE CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN UPDATE" forecasts significant water shortages throughout the state by the year 2020. These shortages will occur despite stringent conservation by residences, businesses, institutions, and agriculture, as well as increased use of "recycled" water. For every region served by the State Water Project and Central Valley Project canals supplied by Delta water, a key remedy is to increase the efficiency with which surplus water is transferred from the north across the Delta to the intakes for those conveyance facilities.

Alternative 3 - the Dual Delta Conveyance is preferable from the standpoint of conveying the most water across the Delta. Because the **Dual Delta Conveyance** delivers the water directly to the export pumps at the south end of the Delta, there is less impact on fish runs and natural waterways. I note that under alternatives 1 and 2 the export pumps operate at 15,000 cubic feet per second, whereas under alternative 3 only 5,000 cfs will be pumped.

During the April 23rd hearing in Oakland one speaker after another parroted the "environmental" line that most if not all of the water should be left instream to flow directly to the ocean, and that agriculture should be sacrificed before urban consumption to make up for any shortages. None of these speakers appeared to have any interest or involvement in farming so they would be the last to suffer any impact on their urban lifestyle. I do not own or operate a farm, and I share the desire of my urban comrades to leave as many waterways in their natural free-flowing state as possible to maintain fish runs and whitewater recreational opportunities. However my conception of "environment" encompasses more than wild and scenic rivers. "Environment" includes the quality of everyday life in which ordinary urban dwellers work and play.

Water for bathing, laundry, and general cleaning cannot be reduced below a certain minimum without jeopardizing personal hygiene, public health, and sanitation. Cities would be reduced to an lifeless asphalt jungle without water-dependent landscaping that not only provides shade and a visual oasis, but also is an essential refuge for urban wildlife. The windsurfer who stated he conserves water by not flushing his toilet overlooks the fresh water for rinsing the salt off his sailboard after each use in San Francisco Bay.

Beyond these direct uses of water by urban dwellers is their much greater indirect use for irrigation to grow fruit and vegetables available in their local markets. Every dietary guideline has called for increased consumption of fruit and vegetables, preferably fresh. The proximity of California's coastal cities to inland valleys with some of the richest soil anywhere means that produce is to be truly fresh, it must come from the those regions that rely on imported water to sustain agriculture during the long dry season. Fallowing more than just marginal farm land would subtract from the agricultural sector's immense contribution to California's economy. Despite the boom in high technology industries, agriculture still adds the most value and the greatest export trade volume of any industry. If urban areas were to have to import fruit and vegetables from other states or abroad, they would not be nearly as fresh and much more expensive. Indeed, fresh produce would be unaffordable to a vast number of moderate income city dwellers, which would be very detrimental to their health.

Many speakers expressed concern that any modification to the Delta would reduce flows necessary to flush San Francisco Bay. They attributed pollution of the Bay to diversion of upstream flow. Living on the Bay and having participated in shoreline cleanups, it is apparent to me that pollution of the Bay is a classic case of fouling one's own nest. I have witnessed carpet cleaners discharging their waste down storm drains in spite of clear warnings "NO DUMPING - DRAINS TO BAY" painted above every drain. Much of the pollution from the normal accumulation of grit, grease, and litter on streets cannot be avoided if this material is washed down drains during a storm. Whether the pollution and waterborne trash is coming downstream from the Delta or beyond, or is discharged/discarded locally, it will not be relieved by any level of flow. Since universal observance of storm drain regulations cannot be achieved among a population of several million, monies spent to fallow agricultural lands would be better spent on building interceptors ringing the bay to capture storm runoff and rout it to treatment plants.

The notion that all water must be left instream to maintain the ecosystem of the Delta and the Bay is simply not supported by scientific studies. Indeed many of the same environmentalists who oppose any diversion expressed misgivings over the extraordinary torrent of January, 1997, fearing that it washed all of the aquatic species out of their natural habitat. 200-year floods, 100-year floods, and even 20 year floods are not necessary to flush the Delta and maintain healthy fish runs. These floodwaters are needed to sustain sensible development in a state whose population is expected to reach 50,000,000 by 2020. Requirements of Central and Southern California are greater than ever. The Mono Lake accord reduces streamflows Los Angeles may divert into its Owens Valley aqueduct. There will also be less water available from the Colorado River as Arizona takes its full share. So even with rigid conservation practices in place, as Los Angeles and other communities in the Southland continue to grow, they must rely more on imported water from the North. The Eastside Reservoir now being constructed by MWD would be able to store much of peak period deliveries.

A glimpse of a future without adequate water was given in a newspaper article headlined "**Goals Scaled Back at CSU Monterey Bay**" about the new campus having to downsize from the desired enrollment of 25,000 to 5,000-8,000 students after the school "accepted the fact that there is not enough water available to fulfill the university's original plan".¹

¹ San Francisco Chronicle, 1/22/96 - page A15

CALFED's decisionmaking process should not be unduly constrained by the Endangered Species Act. In a **unanimous** ruling last year, U.S. Supreme Court found that provisions of the Act require federal agencies to consider such costs as those cited above when restricting the use of property, and must substantiate their rulings with verifiable scientific evidence. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service can be sued by jurisdictions seeking to relax excessive regulations whose necessity cannot be proven. So California may seek legal remedies to protect its limited supply of fresh water from overly zealous federal regulation. If federal authorities cannot balance the needs of the much smaller commercial and recreational fishing sectors with that of agriculture, any judge can be persuaded that not even the strongest salmon could swim against the New Year's 1997 torrent. The Central Valley should not be converted into a dust bowl in order to permit continued overfishing of the oceans.

Finally, a potentially significant source overlooked by Bulletin 160-98 is runoff from roofs to be collected by **cisterns**. The ancient Romans continued to use cisterns even after constructing aqueducts to feed their distribution systems. Likewise, as remote sources cannot be expanded further, California should look to the enormous quantity of rainwater that falls on roofs and flows uselessly down a spout and into overburdened sewers to augment its urban supplies. The Water Use Efficiency Program could be augmented by state and federal tax credits to spur installation of cisterns in businesses and residences, and funding for cisterns in schools and other institutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William J. Stremmel". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Bill Stremmel

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