



Helix Water District

Setting standards of excellence in public service

JUN 29 1998

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June 24, 1998

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

Attention: Mr. Rick Breitenbach

CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM – DRAFT PROGRAMMATIC EIS/EIR

The Helix Water District Board of Directors wishes to offer the following commentary on the CALFED process.

The Helix Water District is located just east of the City of San Diego and serves nearly a quarter-million people in the cities of La Mesa, Lemon Grove, and El Cajon. Also served are the unincorporated areas, Spring Valley and portions of Lakeside. We have been providing water since 1926 when we purchased the Cuyamaca Water Company (formerly the San Diego Flume Company). We were one of the founding members of the San Diego County Water Authority and purchaser of water from the Colorado River. We have provided leadership and direction to the San Diego County Water Authority, as well as playing an active role in the formation of the State Water Project.

Helix has used and will continue to use our local water supply effectively and efficiently. However, this meets only 20 percent of our needs, making us dependent on the State Water Project and the Colorado River for the balance of our needs. We have had an extensive community outreach/education program stressing conservation since 1965. We began our own toilet replacement program even before there was a cooperative program with Metropolitan Water District and the San Diego County Water Authority. We currently are partnering with other local agencies in building a \$3 million Water Resource Conservation Garden to teach the principles of Xeriscape in order to save between 37 and 74 percent* in water use per landscape. We were among the first agencies to become signatories to the Best Management Practices.

*Based on a study of demonstration gardens in California, Nevada, Arizona, and Colorado

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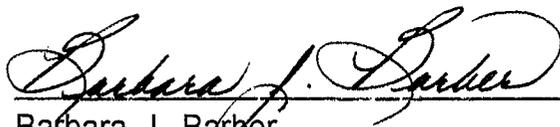
Legal Counsel:
Scott C. Smith

San Diego County needs certainty and reliability in its supply of State Water Project water passing through the Bay-Delta. A portion of this reliability should be provided through increased storage capacity to capture excess flows during wet periods for release during dry periods, a direct benefit to the environment and people. San Diego County contributes \$87 billion to California's trillion-dollar economy. An enhanced conveyance system is essential to water reliability as businesses cannot tolerate unplanned interruptions.

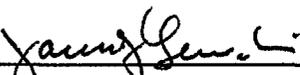
An enhanced conveyance system would also improve the quality of Bay-Delta water. This would help control costs for urban water-providers and allay health concerns regarding waterborne diseases and disinfection byproducts such as trihalomethanes, a suspected health hazard.

We believe in the CALFED process and applaud the leadership and commitment of those involved. We believe each interest group must be assured that its needs will be met, both in an overall sense and during implementation of the solution package. We at Helix will continue our conservation efforts. We will continue to explore other water alternatives. We will help to pay for a solution that improves the quality and reliability of Delta water.


H. Warren Buckner, President


Barbara J. Barber


Dr. Lillian M. Childs

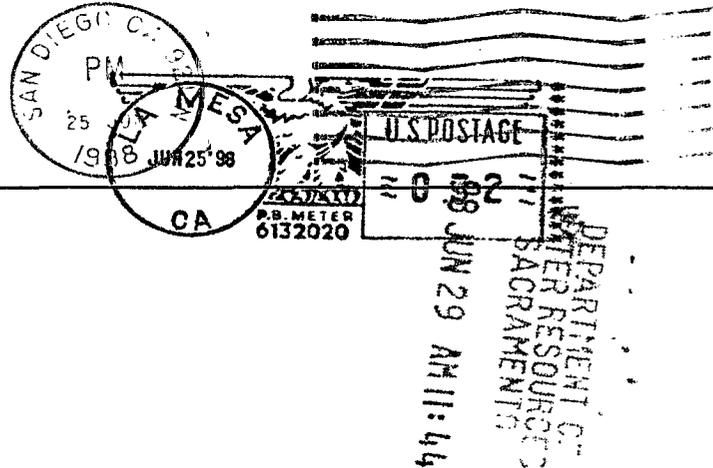

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