

June 26, 1998

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Mr. Lester Snow  
Executive Director  
CalFed Bay/Delta Program  
1416 Ninth Street  
Suite 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: CalFed Bay/Delta program

Dear Mr. Snow:

For too long California has been ignoring the fact that water is a valuable and limited resource by building more and more dams, primarily to serve the interests of the big agri-business lobby. Between the Federal programs and the State Water Project, we have dammed nearly all if not all of the rivers flowing into the Sacramento and San Jacquin valleys. As a result, we have destroyed valuable wildlife areas, imperilled our fisheries, particularly salmon and steelhead, and ignored the recreational benefits of free flowing rivers.

The diversion of waters to irrigate what was formerly dry-land farming in the Westlands Water District is the most recent examples of this destruction. What we have created is increased soil salinity, and also washing selenium into our streams and into the now toxic slump labelled as the Kesterson Reservoir. We persist in this folly while creating havoc with our wildlife resources.

During times of recent drought, we have given first priority to agriculture by delivering full service to most agricultural water districts draining down our reserves, while again creating havoc with our wildlife and fisheries.

Rather than build more diversion schemes such as the Peripheral Canal, if more water is needed for continued growth of California's population, let us correct some of our past mistakes by limiting water deliveries to ill planned schemes such as irrigation of the Westlands Water District and providing excessive water to low priced crops which are subsidized by our numerous governmental programs. It will be cheaper to reacquire some of the water rights now held by agriculture in marginal areas than trying to pretend that we can build our way out of

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Page 2

future shortages.

For too long the citizens of California and of the entire United States have been asked to subsidize more and more concrete "solutions" to irrigate marginal lands with increasingly costly schemes. We don't need more dams, and we don't need a Peripheral Canal to further suck from the Delta and permanently destroy our imperiled salmon runs.

I urge you to consider conservation, not more construction, to manage California's future.

Sincerely,

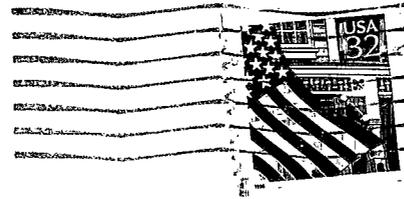
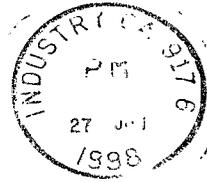


Thomas E. Parrington

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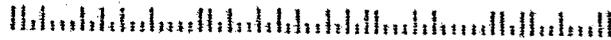
MR. LESTER SNOW  
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DEPARTMENT OF  
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SACRAMENTO

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