

June 26, 1998

01319

Executive Director of CALFED Bay-Delta Program  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155  
Sacramento, California 95814

JUN 30 1998

Dear Lester Snow,

This letter to you and your department is written in regard and with great concern for the negative environmental consequences that the proposed raising of Shasta Dam would have. When I first heard of the proposal my very first thoughts were of the irreversible nature that such action would cause. Because some of my most special times shared with family and friends has been on a section of the McCloud River that would be permanently inundated, coupled with the devastating loss of habitat and resources, I knew that I had to write to you with my concerns and questions.

It is my understanding that a reason for the proposed dam raising is to provide water intended to restore water quality in the San Francisco Bay and San Joaquin Delta. Apparently the intention is to reverse salt water intrusion in the delta and restore a fishery that once was. Is there a comprehensive and visionary plan for such a restoration? Does the chance for such a plan succeeding include the long shot gamble that Mother Nature will cooperate? The only good bet is that she wont. Does the proposal consider the very real fact that man's track record with restoring fish habitat is marginal at best? Does the proposal consider that the home of the rainbow trout and one of the most rare and unique wild trout fisheries on this planet be permanently lost?

It is my understanding that the most likely reason for the dam raising is for increased water delivery to Southern California urban and agricultural interests. Of course as population increases an increase in water consumption coincides, but is the raising of Shasta Dam and the many significant, negative and permanent environmental consequences a logical solution? It seems that every effort towards conservation of water would be a first step towards a logical solution. Has this step been taken? I ask this question as someone who is educated, trained and professionally employed as a commercial agriculturist. Irrigation technology is moving forward rapidly and in conjunction with computer technology. We have working irrigation systems that effectively and economically reduce the quantity of water that we need to use. We have satellite and computer technology that can show us when and where we really need to irrigate. Are such systems a part of the proposal and plan that would raise Shasta Dam?

In brief, these are my concerns and questions and indeed I appreciate your time and consideration in answering them. I want to be fully aware of all aspects of the raising Shasta Dam proposal and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Stutler

P.O. Box 361

Glen Ellen, California 95442

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Executive Director of CALFED Bay-Delta Program  
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**TO: (PLEASE PRINT)** PHONE  
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