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June 19, 1998

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

Dear CALFED Technical Staff:

We would like to incorporate our ideas and thoughts on the proposed CALFED Bay Delta Program.

The prime concern seems to be supplying high quality water to the Delta so the people of Southern California have access to a good supply of water and to restore some fisheries.

This is a worthwhile objective and could be accomplished, with an increased supply of water from the North. If the following projects can be accomplished:

1. We need up stream storage, before the rest of the plan is feasible. Up stream storage means damming free flowing streams, such as Cottonwood Creek, Thomes Creek, Mill Creek and Deer Creek. These streams contribute on a large scale to the flooding of the Sacramento Valley, even when Shasta Dam releases are shut down during high water. This would be a win win situation for the North and the South.
2. The proposed off stream storage at Sites will do very little to control flooding in the Northern Sacramento Valley, and the idea of pumping flood water from the Valley to the Sites Storage Area is not cost effective and would only affect a small area of the valley

We understand that environmental groups are against on stream storage. We suggest an environmental impact study should include the effects on the people on California. Such a study would reveal, that growth in California should be halted and a good share of the population be exported out of the state. The days are gone, when the Hudson Bay Company spent six weeks in the Sutter Buttes, because they were surrounded by water for miles and could not move.

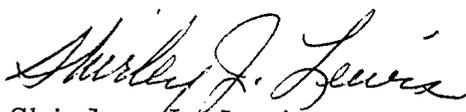
Another area that has to be addressed is the Sacramento River, which is actually half river and half canal, as the Sacramento River is used to transport water from Shasta Dam to the Delta and South. The idea of a meander belt along the river is only feasible, if the people of California are willing to buy many acres of expensive, high tax based, highly developed farm land. This cannot be accomplished by the present idea of a willing seller. We have three local examples of the State owning property and not maintaining the River banks and the levees. This has greatly impacted neighbors of these properties and leads to litigation. Is it good management for the State to buy property on the Sacramento River/Canal in Glenn County and allow this property to erode and be washed down stream, decreasing the water carrying capacity of this river/canal? The Sacramento River/Canal needs to be held within its banks to preserve bridges, roads, homes, towns and productive farm land.

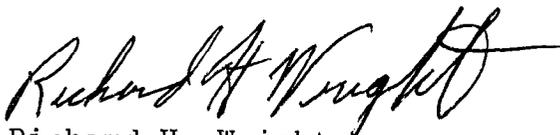
The idea of pumping ground water to replace stored water, so the stored water can be shipped South, could deplete the ground water basins and head the Sacramento Valley towards the problems we see now, in the Owens Valley and Lancaster areas. If the South State depends on water transfers in non-drought years, where does the emergency water come from in drought years? The city of Chico is home to majestic trees, some tower above four story buildings, and streets in long established residential areas are sheltered with a "tunnel" of trees. These trees depend on a high water table to survive.

The only feasible solution is related to upstream storage, and saving water, which is California's precious resource.

Sincerely yours,


James R. Lewis
Land owner


Shirley J. Lewis


Richard H. Wright
Land owner

Important!
Public Comment Enclosed

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the right of the return address

CERTIFIED

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