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June 29, 1998

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CALFED
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Comments on the California Watershed Management Program

Dear Sirs:

This letter is intended to express my individual concerns with regard to the CALFED process. I am not representing any specific group or political body. I am a commercial loan officer with an independent bank in Redding, California. My place of birth was Chico, California and I have lived in various parts of the State including Chico, Redding, Sacramento and San Diego.

As you can determine from my introduction, I am not a rocket scientist, but my exposure to the ecology of California combined with my love and interest in the out of doors has provided me with an understanding of the diverse weather patterns that California must deal with.

The population of California is exploding and the political body, be it State or Federal, do not appear to have the stomach for or inclination to commit the major investment of resources required for a just solution to the ever increasing need for water. A just solution to the problem will involve leaving in place the existing water rights and doing a better job of managing the supply of water.

As a banker by training, I see tremendous value in saving and/or banking water to assist in surviving the naturally occurring dry seasons that we know will be coming our way. As I write this letter, our North State streams are running high, our reservoirs are full and water rationing is a thing of the past.

When CALFED began the process some time ago, it had some 20 options on the table. Several of them called for ambitious water storage to support the appetite of the Southern California masses. It is apparent from attending the Redding hearing that the CALFED people that I spoke to personally were not interested in rocking the Environmental boat by calling for more storage. Storage costs money and storage is a bad word for many of our Environmental elite.

If I were a rocket scientist, it might have occurred to me that this State barely has enough water in a normal year, but it certainly does not have enough during a dry one. If we cannot convince the "Environmental Community" that storage is necessary, the goals of CALFED will fail in my opinion. Failure by my definition means that all Californians' will have to do with less water than they might have benefited from if more prudent planning had prevailed to begin with.

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Since on-stream storage is such an obstruction to the fishery, it will be more useful to create off-stream storage that can bank water for dry years to be used when necessary. This is expensive, but in my opinion, the only way to assure a better quality of life for the residents of this great State.

There is no need to increase the height of Shasta Dam. Shasta has the capability to provide excess water via a pipe system to off-stream storage on the West side of the Sacramento Valley. The proposed storage facility could have been filled this year with all of the excess water that flowed to the ocean.

The next question is, "Who pays for the storage and water?". The lions share of this major investment of resource must be paid for by the beneficiaries - The water users.

CALFED needs to take another look at the inadequate options that have been proposed. If you are interested in doing the right thing for California's future, it is import to guarantee an adequate storage ingredient to the preferred option.

I appreciate the opportunity to express my concerns.

Sincerely,



Larry Lewis
1915 Shady Lane
Redding, California 96002

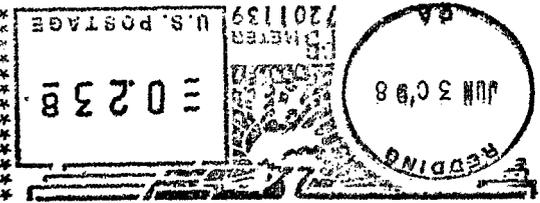
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