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Ken Scheidegger, Director
California Delta Chambers & Visitor's Bureau
106 W. Brannan Island Rd.
Isleton, CA 95641
June 30, 1998

JUL 01 1998

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

SUBJECT: Comments on the Programmatic EIS / EIR March 1998.

Dear Mr. Breitenbach

I am writing this letter to you on behalf of the California Delta Chambers and Visitors Bureau, a non profit group of some 230 businesses and Delta supporters. I presently serve as Director of the Chambers.

As to my professional background; I feel that I must mention it. At present, I am a restaurant, boat yard, and marina owner where I'm privileged to meet many thousands of people each year who enjoy the Delta's varied recreational opportunities. Prior to my business activities, I was a Full Professor of Oceanography at Oregon State University, and during the past two years of my academic career, I was a consultant to the National Science Foundation. I specialized in the studies of bays and estuaries and I also studied river systems from California to Canada.

The comments made below are shared by my colleagues in business and academia and are as follows:

- 1: California's Delta is a key recreational area in the state where more than 200,000 boaters come to it each years. To this one must add countless others who come to campgrounds or RV parks, or simply make day trips for dining or exploring. At the recent Crawdad Festival in Isleton over 200,000 people came to this small delta town in one weekend! After reading about CALFED' s three alternative programs and attending a CALFED meeting in Stockton last month, I came away with the feeling that recreational interests weren't given any consideration at all. That is unbelievable! The California Delta Chambers and Visitors Bureau has applied to the State to have the Delta become it's 13th tourism area. California deserves the right to keep the Delta as a recreational area;
- 2: There appears to be a dearth of hard scientific data and perspective being used by CALFED to come up with it's three suggested alternatives to save the Delta. If one wants to see what the Delta was really like, go back prior to the time levees

and dams were built. Rivers meandered and wildlife habitat was everywhere! Now, after man brought in the striped bass for fishing, rocks for the shorelines, water hyacinths for color, and more than 400 other plant and animal species into the Bay and Delta, one must realize that the ecosystem has changed. Relative abundances of some species will increase, while others decrease even if a bandaid is applied. This does not mean the Delta is dying. It is simply readjusting to changing boundary conditions. Emphasis should be given to keeping the water as clean as possible. Some of us could see a flooded Bouldin Island becoming an ideal location for water hyacinth to flourish;

3: CALFED should consider taking a position to ban MTBE in gasoline in California. Why not use ethanol instead? Yes, it may cost a bit more and the source may need to be increased, but one ends up with better combustion and simple H₂O and CO₂ as waste products. We would then not have to worry as much about contaminated surface and ground waters for the ages to come; and

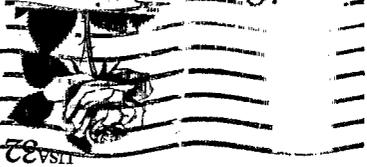
4: Remember a simple slogan that you may have heard before, namely "The solution to Pollution is Dilution." It's a terrible thought to think that we'll never ever stop all forms of pollution in an area surrounded by an ever-increasing population. Unfortunately, that's true. Our only real hope is to work as hard as we can to cut the amount of pollutants down while insuring that nothing takes away the sources of water available to dilute what remains. The Delta is the source of water for much of the population of State, and it needs to keep every drop of water it can, both for humans and for the plant and animal life of the Delta.

Sincerely



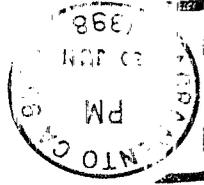
Ken Scheidegger, Director
California Delta Chambers and Visitors Bureau

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DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES
SACRAMENTO

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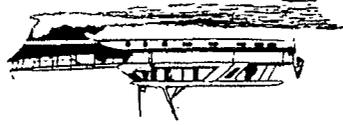
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DELTA BOAT WORKS

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