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Anniversary

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July 1, 1998

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

Re: Comments in response to the CALFED DEIS/R

Dear Mr. Snow:

Enclosed are the detailed comments of Friends of the River in response to the CALFED Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report (DEIS/R). Our detailed comments focus primarily on the surface water storage and conveyance, water use efficiency, and ecological restoration components of the CALFED plan. We hereby incorporate by reference the comments submitted by the Environmental Water Caucus concerning CALFED's overall program, as well as the specific comments submitted by the Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign concerning CALFED's Watershed Management Strategy.

In summary, Friends of the River opposes any CALFED plan that includes new or enlarged surface water storage and conveyance facilities. To truly restore the Bay-Delta system, CALFED must adhere to the basic premise of the Hippocratic oath: First, do no harm. Second, CALFED must fully mitigate the impacts of existing dams and canals before burdening California's fragile environment with any new facilities. Third, CALFED must consider fundamental changes in how we use water, before proceeding with the same old "solutions" that have brought the Bay-Delta ecosystem to near collapse.

We strongly urge CALFED to reconsider its range of alternatives and to develop a new alternative that emphasizes water use efficiency, reclamation, and conservation. Further, CALFED must implement an effective and science-based ecosystem restoration program, before proceeding with alternatives based primarily on new facilities.

Please provide a copy of CALFED's final EIS/R and decision notice when it is completed and becomes available for public review.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Betsy Reifsnider
Executive Director

Steven L. Evans
Conservation Director

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