

# CHINO BASIN

## MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

9400 Cherry Ave, Bldg. A • Fontana, CA 92335  
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**Dr. Robb D. Quincey**  
Chief Executive Officer  
General Manager

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July 2, 1998

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

Dear Mr. Snow:

Subject: CALFED Bay-Delta Programmatic EIS/EIR

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the environmental documentation prepared for the CALFED Bay-Delta process. The Chino Basin Municipal Water District provides water, wastewater and related utility services that will be affected by decisions made through the CALFED Bay-Delta process. As a member agency of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the District has followed, and is generally supportive of the process and the progress that has been made to date.

Consistent with long-range water supply planning by the State of California and the Metropolitan Water District, over the last several years, the District has pursued a program to better utilize local water supply sources to meet future growth within our service area. The cornerstones of this program include salt management of local groundwater supplies and water recycling.

Recognizing the long-range water supply needs of the State, and based on the findings of the CALFED Bay-Delta EIS/EIR, implementation of Alternative No. 3, is in staff's opinion, the best approach to resolving Bay-Delta issues. Of equal importance, Alternative No. 3 will provide for the delivery of high quality water supplies to Southern California through the State Water Project (SWP). In addition to meeting those demands, high quality imported water supplies are required to support both water recycling and groundwater salinity management in Southern California.

As noted in the Draft EIS/EIR, Alternative No. 3 provides for a salinity reduction of SWP deliveries by approximately 100 mg/l. Based on the preliminary findings of the Bureau of Reclamation/Metropolitan Water District Salinity Management Study, the economic benefits of a 100 mg/l salinity reduction in imported water supplies is estimated at \$95 million per year.

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Mr. Lester Snow, Executive Director

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

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The salinity reduction also means that SWP supplies can be more readily stored in local groundwater basins, and utilized during periods of drought to meet local demand. The resulting benefits to the Delta include reduced demands, and the preservation of its ecosystem during drought periods.

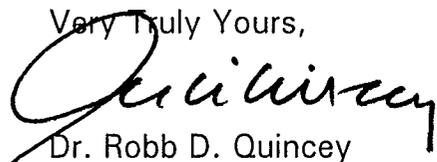
For the District, and many other agencies, the feasibility of water recycling is generally limited by the ability to financially compete with imported water supply sources. Within the District's service area alone, water recycling projects capable of distributing over 50,000 acre-feet per year have been identified. To a large extent, the implementation of these projects has been delayed due to the cost of salinity removal. The potential benefit of a 100 mg/l salinity reduction in State Water Project deliveries for the District's recycling program could exceed \$3.5 million annually. For many of the District's projects, this cost savings alone would shift the financial cost of recycling to a level below imported water purchases.

The CALFED Bay-Delta process is only one piece of the State's long-range water plan puzzle. In order to be successful, the process must result in the implementation of a program that meets the needs of the entire State. Given the water quality and supply reliability component of Alternative No. 3, the District's staff supports the implementation of CALFED Bay-Delta process based on this alternative.

It is the only alternative capable of providing the quality of water necessary to permit the widespread implementation of water recycling and groundwater quality management programs within the Southern California region. Both of these water management programs are critical to the overall success of the Bay-Delta process, and in meeting State's long-range water supply needs.

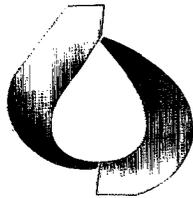
Best wishes in taking the critical step from initiative to "finishiative" with respect to the Bay-Delta process.

Very Truly Yours,



Dr. Robb D. Quincey  
Chief Executive Officer  
General Manager

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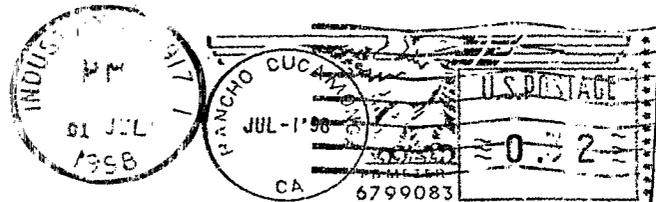


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