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June 23, 1998

Mr. Lester Snow
Executive Director of CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95492

Dear Mr. Snow:

I am writing to comment on the CALFED EIS/EIR in respect to one issue in particular, the potential enlargement of the Shasta Dam and Reservoir.

I am a UC Berkeley graduate (BS Resource Economics 1982). One fact which has stuck with me through the ensuing years is the inherent difficulty in assigning quantitative values to qualitative resources. In this case I address the future of some of the most wild canyons of California's bountiful watersheds. Any person who cares to look will recognize that a natural environment lost to a reservoir is a resource gone forever. I would like to know how this cost is accurately measured by those who are paid to assign a monetary value to our future generations loss of a wild river.

The watersheds feeding Shasta Lake are among the most wild ones left in the state of California. I speak not only for the McCloud but the Sacramento, Squaw Creek and Pit River watersheds. Geographically, the McCloud River stands at the very head of the Sacramento River watershed and is unique in that its relative inaccessibility has let much of the watershed remain in truly wild state. I have traveled throughout California's vast river systems and in my opinion, the McCloud River is probably the single most wild and untrammled of any tributaries to the Sacramento/ San Joaquin watershed, including the King, Feather, Kern and other rivers currently protected under the Federal and State Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. If my opinion is even partially correct, how would the raising the Shasta Dam and the ensuing consequences to the watershed of the McCloud reconcile with CALFEDS principle of "solutions having broad public acceptance and legal feasibility"?

Also, it appears that the proposal to raise Shasta Dam is in conflict with California Public Resources Code Section 5093.542. This section states that the "continued management of the river resources in their existing natural condition represents the best way to protect the unique fishery of the McCloud River." The act also denies participation of the state or federal government in any involvement of a dam, reservoir or other facility which could adversely affect the free flowing condition of the McCloud River (with exception of technical and economic feasibility studies by DWR. How would you preserve the well-being of the public trust as addressed in this legislation?

I hope that you will conclude, as I have, that the potential costs of this proposal, both quantitative and qualitative, far outweigh its potential benefits. I thank you for your careful consideration of these important issues.

Sincerely,

Matthew Praetzel

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