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Lester Snow
CalFed Bay/Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
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Subject: Comments on Draft EIS/EIR

June 30, 1998

Dear Mr. Snow,

The charter area of the San Joaquin Audubon Society encompasses much of the core Delta. We have members who remember times prior to the present excessive-water-pumping regime when the Delta was the setting for a more vibrant fishery. We therefore appreciate this opportunity to comment on the CALFED Bay/Delta Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (DEIS/EIR).

We find all three of the proposed alternatives to be unacceptable. In our estimation, were any of the three alternatives to be completed, the present ecological crisis which is consuming the Delta would be made worse.

The proposed projects in the DEIS/EIR insure increased water storage

and water deliveries but fail to incorporate appropriate measures to rectify losses of native fishes. We believe that this is because the only voices to which CALFED has paid attention to are those whom would benefit from increased pumping - the very interests which have created the present ecological crisis.

This ecological crisis is man made. We demand additional alternatives in a Supplemental DEIS/EIR that incorporate measures designed to rectify the ecological crisis in the Delta. A remedy for this crisis would require less pumping of water south not more pumping. A remedy would dismantle dams not build more. A remedy would repair and regulate water quality not ignore it. A remedy would mandate water conservation not enable over-consumption.

We believe that the health of the San Joaquin River is key to any solution to the ecological problems which confront the Delta. Friant Dam must release some water and not completely strangle the river. The selenium-laced marginal farmlands in the San Joaquin Valley should be retired not the prime soils in San Joaquin County.

Any solution to the ecological crisis in the Delta will require the active participation of the water-using community. The DEIS/EIR proposed alternatives disassociate the water users from the health of the Delta by effectively changing the point of diversion from the South Delta to the Sacramento River. The concept of a "common pool" is thus abandoned.

In closing, we repeat that zero alternatives in the DEIS/EIR adequately address the ecological problems and we demand a conservation based alternative in a Supplemental DEIS/EIR. For purposes of legal standing we incorporate by reference the comments made by: California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, Baykeeper/Deltakeeper, Central Delta Water Agency and, South Delta Water Agency. We are also signatory to the comments made by the Environmental Water Caucus.

Sincerely,



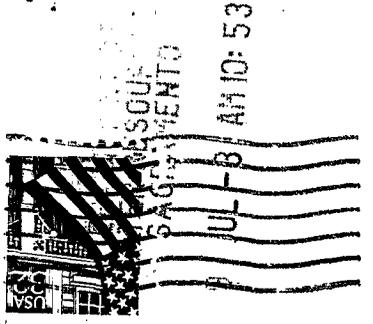
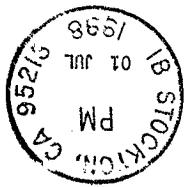
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[DEIS/EIR COMMENTS]

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