

01711
JUL 0 1 1998

June 30, 1998

To the CALFED Comment Review Team:

We have not had the opportunity to review your documents, but have read about them in the press and heard about them in discussions with other individuals. A few comments follow:

New above ground storage: After seventy or so years of building water storage facilities in California, there seem to be few even remotely viable sites left. Our legacy to future generations should be that we found other ways of meeting our needs and left these areas as they are, either in perpetuity or as reserves for a future California in truly dire straits.

Habitat: In order to significantly improve natural fisheries, salmon and steelhead primarily, we feel additional riverways must be opened up to spawning fish. It is for this reason that we were delighted to hear of the reference in your documents to the decommissioning of Englebright Reservoir on the Yuba River. Of all the Sierra rivers that we are familiar with, the Yuba offers the least obstruction, both physically and economically, to being reopened as historical fisheries.

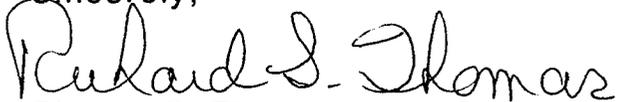
Riverways and levees: In both the delta and the upper river areas, the only long term solution to problems of high flows escaping the designated riverway (flooding to some and reclaiming it's natural floodplain to others) is to make that riverway wide enough to safely accomodate even the most extreme flows. This means moving the levees back from the river. Any money and effort spent doing anything less is a short term fix destined to fail and a waste of resources, both natural and financial.

An additional advantage of widening the riparian flow area is that it would allow the removal of accumulated sediment in the portion of the stream bed that is dry during the late summer months. This "dry dredging" would maintain the capacity of the riverway without the water quality and sediment problems associated with traditional dredging.

Conservation, a final thought: Conservation, conservation, conservation. We do not travel often or widely, but, as simply one example, we have yet to encounter a low flow showerhead in a rented room.

Our best wishes to you all in your challenging task. May your vision encompass both great distance and imagination.

Sincerely,


Richard S. Thomas


Theresa M. Thomas

C-015791

95814/5503

Kester Snow CALFED
Bay/Delta Program
1416 9th St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814



DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES
SACRAMENTO
98 JUL -3 AM 10:56

THOMAS
10066 Rob-King Rd.
Nevada City, CA 95959

C-015791