

Ohlone Audubon Society, Inc.
A chapter of the National Audubon Society
Serving Southern Alameda County, CA

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June 30, 1998

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program
Attn.: Mr. Rick Breitenbach
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax (916) 654-9780

Dear Mr. Breitenbach

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Report for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. We look forward to reviewing the revised draft to be released later this year. CALFED presents the greatest opportunity in decades to ensure high-quality water and reliable supplies for people and wildlife and to restore salmon runs and thriving wetlands in the largest inland estuary in the West. Our comments at this time are related to concerns that more dams and canals will be allowed on the rivers that feed the Bay and that this historic chance to restore the Bay's environment may be lost if non-environmental interests have higher priority.

All three of CALFED's alternatives call for new or enlarged dams and storage reservoirs and neglect meeting California's water needs with conservation and efficiency. A new Peripheral Canal and other new channels and dams could easily undo even a strong restoration program and increase threats to California's fish and wildlife. Less than 1% of the water currently used by agribusiness will be



1210 Tiegen Dr., Hayward, CA 94542 - (510) 886-4730

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saved by CALFED when water districts and innovative farmers are already doing better than this. CALFED's goal should be to emphasize water conservation not more water storage, and water markets. CALFED's restoration planning is poorly designed and falls short of addressing the entire Bay and Delta.

Ohlone Audubon urges you to ensure that CALFED creates and selects a "Smart Alternative" (a fourth alternative) based on conservation and restoration to provide ample high quality water for California's families, wildlife, farms, and businesses into the 21st century. The "Smart Alternative" would:

- ensure effective conservation programs and economic incentives to use our water more efficiently
- maximize water efficiency before even considering costly new dams, reservoirs and canals
- restore and protect our watersheds and groundwater basins for high-quality, reliable water for people and wildlife
- restore California's fish, birds, wetlands, rivers, delta and bays

Please enter these comments into the formal record for your Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report and Statement.

Sincerely,



Viola Saima-Barklow
President

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DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
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Ms. Viola W. Salma-Barklow
1210 Tlegen Dr.
Hayward, CA 94542-1041

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