

98-157

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Vivian Parker
Conservation Chairperson,
Shasta Chapter
California Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 451
Manton, CA 96059
August 14, 1998

Lester Snow
CALFED Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: DRAFT STAGING AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (8/5/98)

Dear Mr. Snow:

The Shasta Chapter of the California Native Plant Society thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the draft staging and implementation plan. We have some specific concerns regarding the Ecosystem Restoration Stage I proposals.

In this proposal, we do not believe that there is sufficient emphasis on acquiring public lands. Unfortunately, "riparian easements" do not have a good track record on the Sacramento River or its tributaries in terms of effectiveness or maintenance. Mitigations are neglected, and agreements are violated.

A more cost-effective plan would emphasize fee title acquisition of the riparian meander corridor along the Sacramento River. This part of the plan should qualify for our most dedicated conservation measures.

Finally, we oppose the language found in this draft, page 28, which emphasizes "outreach, coordination, and partnering..." with agriculture emphasis agencies and private landowners, while failing to mention recreation and conservation groups, and other members of the interested public. Partnership and outreach should extend to all members of the public.

Please send me any further renditions of these proposals in a timely manner, so that we may continue to participate in this process. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Vivian Parker

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The California Native Plant Society