

99-113

APR 19 1999 STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0001
(916) 319-2007
(916) 319-2107 FAX
DISTRICT OFFICES
 50 D STREET, SUITE 301
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
(707) 546-4500
(707) 5460-9031 FAX
 640 TUOLUMNE STREET
SUITE B
VALLEJO, CA 94590
(707) 649-2307
(707) 649-2311 FAX
 1040 MAIN STREET
SUITE 101
NAPA, CA 94559
(707) 258-8007
(707) 258-8205 FAX

Assembly California Legislature

PATRICIA WIGGINS
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTH DISTRICT

April 14, 1999

COMMITTEES:
Chair, SELECT COMMITTEE
ON CALIFORNIA WINE
MEMBER:
AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY
& TOXIC MATERIALS
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
RULES

Lester A. Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

This letter is written in support of the Sonoma Ecology Center's proposal to eradicate *Arundo donax* along streams in Bay-Delta watersheds. The Sonoma Ecology Center has a successful history of both *Arundo* eradication in their local area, and the coordination of similar efforts elsewhere in Northern and Central California through their ongoing work with Team *Arundo del Norte*.

As it is well documented, *Arundo donax* can have a significantly negative impact on the health of riparian areas and their associated species. These species found in the Bay-Delta Estuary and its associated watersheds include several of those on California's list of endangered and threatened species. Furthermore, it is documented that *Arundo* increases flooding and the resulting property damage, as well as shifts the composition of riparian vegetation toward an *Arundo* monoculture. This riparian monoculture is not only biologically impoverished, but it is also in a high-risk fire condition.

Funding this proposal would implement several ready projects that could benefit the Bay-Delta Estuary, its watersheds, and their communities. It would also assure adequate coordination, technical support and monitoring, so that a maximum amount of *Arundo* can be eliminated.

Once again I want to thank you for consideration of this grant proposal and I urge you to give it your full support.

Sincerely,
Pat Wiggins

PAT WIGGINS
Assemblywoman, Seventh District

PW:iy

