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**APR 19 1999**

April 15, 1999

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

Dear Mr. Snow,

I am writing to support The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) 1999 CALFED application for Floodplain Acquisition and Habitat Restoration on the Sacramento River between Jelly's Ferry and Cow Creek (RM 267-280).

BLM and The Trust for Public Lands (TPL) have brought together TNC, DFG, WCB, DWR Northern District, and the SB 1086 Conservation Area to work with the Gover Family to preserve and enhance important biological values at the confluence of the Sacramento River and Battle Creek. The Gover Family has farmed the adjacent land, known as Bloody Island, for several generations. I believe they are eager to work cooperatively with BLM to protect Bloody Island's biological values and while preserving compatible agricultural use.

A preserve design based on reach-scale planning envisioned by the proposed project can be expected to address CALFED objectives on the Sacramento River and Battle Creek, while at the same time permitting the Gover family to continue farming. TNC will be pleased to participate as a member of the technical team charged with formulating a preserve design, restoration plan, and easement restrictions to meet the multiple purposes of habitat protection, limited river meander, and continued beneficial use.

I ask that you to strongly consider BLM's proposal for floodplain acquisition and habitat restoration.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Sam Lawson  
Project Director