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DIRECTORS

President
Lance Tennis

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Don Heffren

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E. Franklin Larrabee

WESTERN CANAL WATER DISTRICT

P.O. Box 190
RICHVALE, CA 95974

PHONE: (530) 342-5083

FAX: (530) 342-8233

E-mail: westerncan@aol.com

OFFICERS

Manager & Secretary
Matt Colwell

Attorney
Jeffrey Meith of
Minasian, Minasian,
Minasian, Spruance,
Baber, Meith & Soares

April 29, 1999

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

Dear Mr. Snow,

Western Canal Water District has reviewed the Proposal for Funding submitted to you by Sacramento River Partners for aquatic and terrestrial habitat restoration of 500 acres on the Llano Seco unit of the Sacramento River Natural Wildlife Refuge.

Western Canal Water District is submitting these comments because lands within the District exist both east and south of the site. In addition, the District has water conveyance facilities, which have incurred substantial damage as a result of prior incidents of flooding originating from this vicinity of the Sacramento River.

Therefore, the District, with an obligation to serve water to the lands within its boundaries with its facilities, and an obligation to take reasonable steps to insure the continued productivity of the land for irrigated agricultural use, does have an interest in this proposal because it would affect, at least arguably, flood flows emanating from the Sacramento River.

The proponents of the plan are proposing that a "thorough hydraulic assessment will be completed before any portion of the reforestation work begins".

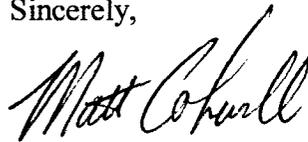
Western Canal Water District's Board of Directors believes that it would be inappropriate and premature at this time to commit to the funding of the entire program. Western Canal Water District has no opposition to a phasing of the program to fund initially, with no commitment of further funds and/or a final project development, the hydraulic assessment. We believe such an assessment would be useful not only for this proposal but for other proposals along this stretch of river as well if it is properly structured and developed.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of Western Canal Water District that the application at this time be restructured as solely an application for the development of a

hydraulic assessment of the area so that a better understanding of the behavior of the river and the flood flows could be developed prior to initiating or considering a commitment for the reforestation project.

After the hydraulic assessment is completed and reviewed to determine its adequacy and the projected impacts of such a proposal, then it would be appropriate, based on the output of that study, to consider continuation of the project and further funding for the reforestation work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Colwell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Matt Colwell, General Manager
Western Canal Water District