

98-403

Greg & Shirley Crompton
PO Box 315
Dobbins, CA 95935
November 16, 1998

Mr. Lester Snow
Executive Director CALFED
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

We are writing to ask you to help save the Englebright Dam in Yuba County. There has recently been pressure from some environmental organizations to have this dam destroyed, but doing it will cause more harm than good. A cost versus benefit comparison reveals this dam must be left in place. In an economically depressed county like ours, the costs of losing this dam in both the short and long terms will be devastating.

Yuba County currently has very little going for it economically. Our most significant resources include water and recreational potential. Englebright Dam was built in 1941 to hold sediment washed down from gold mining operations conducted mostly in the 1800's. It is doing this job well and has also provided additional benefits. These include regulating water flow and temperatures, and providing clean hydroelectric power, recreation for our citizens and water storage for wildland fire suppression.

Removal of the Englebright Dam will be detrimental in many ways. Yuba River fisheries will be adversely impacted resulting from the loss of the dam's role in controlling water temperatures and a massive release of stored sediment. Further, public safety will be negatively affected from the loss of a wildland fire suppression resource. Also, our fragile economy will suffer from the loss of hydroelectric power generation revenues and tourism dollars. And the expense of removing this dam, and fulfilling all the attendant requirements, could financially devastate the brightest star on our economic horizon, our Yuba County Water Agency. For these reasons we respectfully request your support in our efforts to save this vitally important resource for our economically depressed county.

Respectfully:



Greg & Shirley Crompton