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DIRECTOR
MR. KENNETH WITT
PRESIDENT OF THE MWDOC

SEPTEMBER 5, 1999

DEAR SIR,

MY WIFE AND I APPRECIATED RECEIVING FROM YOU NOTICE OF THE CAL FED PUBLIC HEARING ON SEPT. 2ND IN COSTA MESA. WE ATTENDED THE MEETING AND VALUED OUR EXPERIENCE.

THE INSIGHTS WE GAINED RELATIVE TO MWD CONCERNS PERTAINING TO THE DEIS/EIR REPORT WERE ENLIGHTENING. IN OUR OPINION SUCH CONCERNS WERE REALISTICALLY GROUNDED AND CLEARLY EXPRESSED BY THE MWD REPRESENTATIVE WHO SPOKE.

WE FEEL THAT STRIVING FOR COMMITMENT AND/OR ASSURANCES IN RELATION TO MWD'S CHIEF CONCERNS, RELATIVE TO THE REPORT, IS REALISTIC. IF GUARANTEES ARE SOUGHT, THE OVERTONES AT LEAST POLITICALLY, ARE TOO LEGALISTIC, ABSOLUTE AND PERFECTIONIST IN NATURE.

DURING THE MEETING WE WERE PRESENT UNTIL "BREAKTIME." WE WERE SURPRISED THAT AT NO TIME OR IN NO WAY DURING THE HEARING WAS MENTION MADE OF OCEAN-WATER DESALINATION POSSIBILITIES, TECHNIQUES, TECHNICAL PROGRESS OR POSSIBLE FINANCIAL SUPPORT AS AN ALTERNATIVE OR ADDITIONAL SOURCE OF WATER FOR AT LEAST SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S POPULATION.

IN ALL FAIRNESS SUCH A THOUGHT MAY BE OUTSIDE THE CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM MANDATE. IF SO, WE THINK STATE AND FEDERAL LEADERS ARE AND/OR HAVE BEEN REMISS IN TAKING, IN A SENSE, A RATHER LIMITED IF NOT PAROCHIAL VIEW OF CURRENT AND FUTURE WATER PROBLEMS STATE WIDE.

THE MWD MIGHT HAVE TO ASSUME LEADERSHIP IN A

DESALINATION EFFORT; BROADER IN SCOPE THAN AN EXPERIMENTAL EFFORT. SEEKING CALFED COOPERATION AND SUPPORT MIGHT WELL LEAD TO AN INTEGRATED PLAN BENEFITING THE ENTIRE STATE — NAMELY, BAY-DELTA-DESALINATION.

CORPORATE AND GOVERNMENTAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES COULD BE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES WITH EMPHASIS ON INCREASING QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF WATER RESERVES IN CALIFORNIA.

LOOKING ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD ONE SEES REMARKABLE ADVANCES BEING MADE IN IMPLEMENTING SUCH TECHNOLOGICAL GAINS. LET'S LEAD THE WORLD AND NOT FOLLOW!

THIS BRINGS ME TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE SINGULAR VERBAL COMMENT I MADE AT THE COSTA MESA HEARING; NAMELY, ANYONE INTERESTED IN THE SUBJECT OF WATER SHOULD READ TAPPED OUT BY FORMER U.S. SENATOR, PAUL SIMON.

WITH BROAD WORLD-WIDE EXPERIENCE PAUL SIMON CLEARLY DESCRIBES THE STATUS OF WATER PROBLEMS WORLD-WIDE INCLUDING A CHAPTER DEVOTED TO CALIFORNIA'S CALFED PROGRAM. THE FORMER SENATOR IS HIGHLY SUPPORTIVE OF THE PROGRAM.

PAUL SIMON KNOWS THAT INTERIOR SECRETARY BABBITT'S TENURE IS SHORT-LIVED AS AN APPOINTEE OF OUTGOING PRESIDENT CLINTON; THAT HIS UNDERSTANDING OF WESTERN WATER PROBLEMS IS RARE AND UNIQUE; THAT THEREFORE HIS LEADERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS TO CALFED WILL BE SORELY MISSED IF CALIFORNIA'S CURRENT POLITICAL AND WATER POLICY LEADERS DON'T MOVE THINGS ALONG DECISION-WISE BEFORE SECRETARY'S TENURE IS COMPLETED.

IN CALIFORNIA AS IN MUCH OF THE WORLD HUMAN-

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BEINGS FACE A "SNOWBALLING" TYPE OF CRISIS WHEN IT COMES TO WATER. AGGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP IS NEEDED, NOW!

WE THANK YOU, MR. WITT, FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND THE HEARING IN COSTA MESA. MY WIFE AND I HAD OUR HORIZONS BROADENED.

THE ISSUE/SUBJECT OF WATER IS INTENSELY COMPLICATED AND EMOTIONAL. FROM A PRIVATE CITIZEN/LAYMAN'S VIEWPOINT IT IS DEMANDING OF OUR BEST LEADERSHIP. ACTION IS CALLED FOR AND MUST BE TAKEN IN A FIRM, ENLIGHTENED WAY WITHOUT UNUSUAL DELAY.

SINCERELY,

Ron Weller

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