

1120 Tasmania Way
Modesto, CA 95356

Rick Breitenbach, CalFed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

September 21, 1999

Dear Mr. Breitenbach,

Before CalFed builds any more dams or other water storage facilities, I would like to see you make sure that as much water is conserved as possible. I don't think that avenue has been explored thoroughly enough.

For instance, can farmers use better irrigation techniques? Can they plant crops that would need less water?

Can the canals be covered with heavy planking made from recycled plastic?

Can a system of "carrots and sticks" be worked out to get all of the residences in the Central Valley on water meters? I understand the homes without meters are only 10% of the total population, but that 10% is in the Central Valley where you are trying to find more water. It seems to me that farmers are metered in a way, are they not? Why should households not be? I have read that L.A. (on meters) uses much less per person than Sacramento (no meters). I know Sacramento's city charter forbids meters, but charters can be changed. Our mayor won't spend the political capital to make people aware of the need for metering. So, it has to come from a larger body, and it would seem that yours could work out the methods to make it worthwhile to install meters in every home in the Central Valley.

I think that only after you've exhausted all of the other alternatives for conservation can you ask for more storage.

Sincerely,

Caroline Milton