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COUNSEL'S OFFICE

**MEMO**

**To: Rick Breitenbach, CALFED**

**From: CDFA**

**Subject: Input on CALFED Workshop of April 29, 1997**

**Date: May 9, 1997**

**This is a follow up to the workshop entitled "Approach to Impact Assessment" held in Sacramento on April 29, 1997. In this meeting CALFED staff presented how they intended to assess impacts of possible CALFED actions in the Programmatic EIR. There was a brief discussion of potential economic and social consequences of impacts on California agriculture, in particular on the future use of prime and unique farmlands. References were made to using property tax data and data from the California Department of Water Resources. While these data may be useful, there are other data which should also be used. Given the ambitious agenda at the meeting, and the volume of questions from other interested parties, I felt that written follow-up on this subject would be a better use of time than launching into a discussion of databases.**

**In previous written communications with CALFED, and in a meeting I had with CALFED staff at their request on this subject on January 6, 1997, I identified the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring program in the Resources Agency, Department of Conservation as a primary source for data on the environmental setting, in order to assess impacts of CALFED actions on farmlands. There was no mention of this source of information at the April 29 meeting. These data are of very high quality and resolution. They have been compiled and updated for purposes such as CALFED's Programmatic EIR. Since these data are compiled and updated by a Department within the Resources Agency, they should be readily accessible by CALFED.**

**At the January 6, 1997 meeting I provided CALFED staff with sample output maps of several counties where CALFED would likely take actions which impact the existing environment. I also provided names of contact persons for acquiring these data in electronic (GIS) format, which should be most useful for your program. I followed up this meeting with a memorandum dated January 10, 1997. I also referred to this in several previous and subsequent written communications with CALFED. Realizing that you and your staff are virtually inundated with paper, I assume that this simply got lost in the process. For your convenience, I have copied and attached these previous written communications for the record. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this.**

**Attachments:**

**MEMO to Lester Snow, dated December 18, 1997.**

**MEMO to Judy Kelly, undated, transmitted January 2, 1997**

**MEMO to Mary Sellkirk, dated January 6, 1997**

**MEMO Jim Martin, dated January 10, 1997.**

**MEMO to Cindy Darling, dated January 24, 1997.**