



CALFED  
BAY-DELTA  
PROGRAM

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155  
Sacramento, California 95814

(916) 657-2666  
FAX (916) 654-9780

*Steve*

May 17, 1999

A. J. Yates, Undersecretary  
Department of Food and Agriculture  
1220 N Street, Room 409  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear A.J.:

In your letter of March 31, 1999 you make two specific requests: first, that CALFED provide a list of existing ecosystem projects which may adversely impact agricultural land; and second, that CALFED notify CDFG of projects prior to approval.

I have enclosed a comprehensive list of all CALFED-approved ecosystem restoration projects as of April 9, 1999. Please note that land use affected by the CALFED Restoration Coordination Program is listed under "Acres." This includes the amount of agricultural land converted by a project. Blank entries in this column mean that no land use is affected by this project. Footnoted entries indicate that all or part of the listed acreage will remain in agricultural use (footnote 1) or that land is not now in agricultural use, so the project will not result in a land use change (footnote 2).

Protecting and enhancing agricultural lands for wildlife purposes is an important part of the CALFED Program. In acquiring land for restoration purposes CALFED seeks first to use publicly owned lands or lands which have existing degraded habitat which can be increased in value. Only 7% of the projects and 13% of the total acreage affected by the CALFED Restoration Coordination Program to date has resulted in land use conversion.

Often the greatest benefits to wildlife occur where agricultural areas are adjacent to habitat areas. The continuation of agricultural practices on restoration lands such as preserves or wildlife refuges protects these areas from urban development, maintains agricultural use and infrastructure and provides wildlife benefits. 68% or more than 20,000 acres of agricultural lands affected by the CALFED Restoration Coordination Program to date, have been maintained to some degree in agricultural use either farmed or grazed.

CALFED Agencies

California

- The Resources Agency
- Department of Fish and Game
- Department of Water Resources
- California Environmental Protection Agency
- State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

- Environmental Protection Agency
- Department of the Interior
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

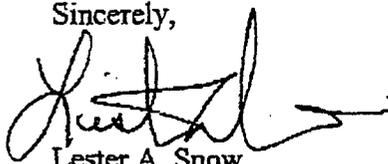
- Department of Agriculture
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Department of Commerce
- National Marine Fisheries Service

A. J. Yates, Undersecretary  
May 17, 1999  
Page Two

Regarding notification, rather than establishing a separate and redundant process, CALFED would prefer to continue notifying CDFA of projects proposed for approval as part of the CALFED Policy Group. As you know, all projects are approved by the Policy Group before they are submitted to the funding entity for final disposition.

I hope this information is useful and responsive.

Sincerely,



Lester A. Snow  
Executive Director

Enclosure