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Conserving California's waterfowl, wetlands, and waterfowling heritage. **CALFED Bay-Delta Program**

July 26, 2000

Mr. Jim Sutton
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water rights
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Mr. Mike Finan
Regulatory Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
1325 J Street, Room 1480
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

Re: Draft EIR/EIS – Delta Wetlands

Gentlemen:

The California Waterfowl Association (CWA) is pleased to submit brief comments on May 2000 Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the Delta Wetlands Project.

CWA, organized in 1945, is an 14,000 member conservation organization dedicated to the preservation, enhancement and restoration of California's waterfowl and wetlands. We have active programs in the areas of education, outreach, research and government affairs.

The California Waterfowl Association has been following the progress of this project for over a decade, and has been enthusiastically supportive of the project's benefits for wetland-dependent wildlife species for a very long time. Although our organization focuses on the wetland aspects of our environment, we are sensitive to the needs of fish and recognize that sometimes there are conflicts between what is good for wetland species and what is good for their neighbors in the aquatic environment. We are pleased that Delta Wetlands and the resource agencies have developed satisfactory biological opinions and that the project now is fish-friendly as well as wildlife-friendly.

We believe that the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement is extremely thorough and even conservative in its analysis. We



**California
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Association**

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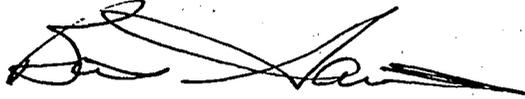
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hope that the appropriate decision-makers move quickly to approve this project so that its many fish and wildlife benefits may begin to accrue to the species of concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Sincerely,



Bill Gaines, Director
Government Affairs

cc: Mike Spear
Lester Snow
Steve Ritchie
Bob Hight
Tom Hannigan
John Winther
CVHJV Management Board
Bob McLandress
Dick Daniel