

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

CITY HALL  
428 N. EL DORADO STREET  
STOCKTON, CA 95202-1887  
(209) 937-8212  
FAX (209) 937-7148

May 26, 1999

**VIA FACSIMILE**

Honorable Michael J. Machado  
Chairman  
California Legislature  
Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, California 95814

Mr. Thomas Hannigan  
Director  
Department of Water Resources  
1416 Ninth Street  
Post Office Box 942836  
Sacramento, California 94236-0001

Mr. Lester A. Snow  
CALFED Bay-Delta Program  
1416 Ninth Street  
Suite 1155  
Sacramento, California 95814

Mr. Allen Short  
San Joaquin River Group Authority  
Post Office Box 4060  
Modesto, California 95352

Mr. Kirk Rodgers  
Acting Regional Director  
Bureau of Reclamation  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, California 95814

[www.stocktongov.com](http://www.stocktongov.com)

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**RESOLVING WATER MANAGEMENT CONCERNS FOR THE LOWER SAN JOAQUIN RIVER AND SOUTH DELTA REGION**

We have recently been informed that various state and public agencies have been meeting in an attempt to resolve differences over the proposed San Joaquin River Agreement. These meetings have developed a working draft of points regarding water management on the San Joaquin River and South Delta. Representatives of the City of Stockton and Stockton East Water District have not been invited to participate in these meetings.

As you know, we worked earlier this year with Assemblyman Machado in an attempt to bring parties in San Joaquin County together with the parties to the San Joaquin River Agreement. The most recent meeting that we attended was on March 2, 1999. On March 5, 1999, Stockton East Water District notified Lester Snow that the District was excited about the process and that we "would very much like to take an active role in the policy planning". We also specifically requested notice of any future meetings, and requested copies of any documents generated by CALFED on these issues.

Unfortunately, we were not notified of the most recent May 18, 1999 and May 25, 1999 meetings. We have, however, received a copy of the May 24, 1999 4<sup>th</sup> Draft of the paper entitled *Resolving Water Management Concerns for the Lower San Joaquin River and South Delta Region* from meeting participants.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Draft raises the concept of adjusting operations of New Melones Reservoir. The City of Stockton and Stockton East Water District are obviously critically interested in San Joaquin River water management, and the operations of New Melones Reservoir. Stockton East Water District holds a contract for water from the reservoir, and any change in its operation has an impact on the water available under those contracts. We would therefore respectfully request notice of the next meeting on this issue so that our concerns can be heard along with those of the other parties in attendance.

Our preliminary concerns with the 4<sup>th</sup> draft include:

**Water Quality Actions**

- ✓ The actions listed do not include the ongoing Regional Water Quality Control Board – Central Valley Region process to complete its Salinity/Boron Basin Plan Amendment and set standards for EC upstream in the San Joaquin River.
- ✓ Reoperation of New Melones for the primary purpose of meeting Vernalis water quality should be a last resort, and must be carefully evaluated for its impacts upon Stockton East Water District, Central

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**RESOLVING WATER MANAGEMENT CONCERNS FOR THE LOWER SAN JOAQUIN RIVER AND SOUTH DELTA REGION**

San Joaquin Water Conservation District, the City of Stockton, and the overdrafted Eastern San Joaquin County groundwater basin.

**Dissolved Oxygen**

- ✓ Measures to address dissolved oxygen should recognize the TMDL process for dissolved oxygen being conducted by the Regional Water Quality Control Board with participation by CALFED, the Department of Water Resources, numerous cities and other stakeholders. This process is expected to produce a plan by 2002 to achieve the DO objectives. Any agreements related to dissolved oxygen should include coordination and participation in that effort, and agree to implement strategies identified in that process. Acquired water supplies can be used to address dissolved oxygen problems

**Barrier Operations**

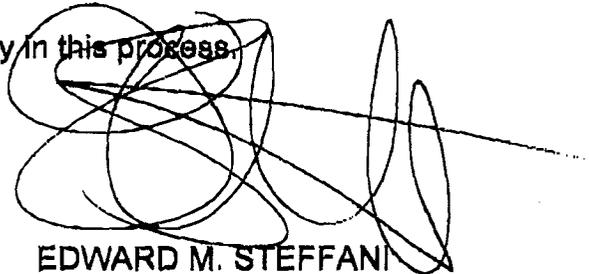
- ✓ The City of Stockton has taken the lead in seeking to identify barrier operations that will improve DO. The City should therefore be included in any group engaged in defining appropriate barrier operations, and would have comments on the specific terms to be included in any such barrier operation agreement.

It is, of course, difficult for us to provide comments when we have only the text to evaluate and not the surrounding discussions.

We look forward to participating constructively in this process.



DWANE MILNES  
City Manager  
City of Stockton



EDWARD M. STEFFANI  
General Manager  
Stockton East Water District