

UPPER SACRAMENTO RIVER ADVISORY COUNCIL
BOB BOSWORTH, CHAIRMAN
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January 7, 1997

Mr. Lester A. Snow
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 CALFED Bay-Delta Program
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To: DANIEL MILLS	From: S. CERELLO	
Co. CALFED	Co. DWR	
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Dear Mr. Snow:

I would like to thank you for the presentation on the CALFED process provided to the Sacramento River Advisory Council's Riparian Habitat Committee in November. Terry Mills and Frank Wernette of the California Department of Fish and Game and Tom Cannon and Steve Chainey of Jones and Stokes provided an excellent overview of the Ecosystem Restoration Program and its relationship to the Upper Sacramento River Fisheries and Riparian Habitat Management Plan (SB1086 Plan).

Two key points in the ensuing discussion were: 1) the need to make specific revisions to the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan map, including the incorporation of the Sacramento River Conservation Area as an Ecological Zone and, 2) the need for public information, outreach, and education as a critical element in watershed restoration. The committee was also provided a working copy of Draft Ecosystem Quality Objectives for the Sacramento River Ecological Zone (Red Bluff Diversion Dam to Chico Landing Ecological Unit) River Mile 242-194. General comments on the "Draft Ecosystem Quality Objectives" follow and a revised draft is enclosed.

Nearly all of the SB1086 Plan is clearly covered under the CALFED Bay-Delta Program mission, goals, and objectives. However, the existing structure of the "Draft Ecosystem Quality Objectives" leaves the status of many integral upriver restoration actions open to interpretation. Therefore, the Riparian Habitat Committee recommends that CALFED add a fourth Program Objective (Objective D), that broadly covers the potential actions to be taken in the Sacramento Basin and more clearly defines their connection to the Bay-Delta. The enclosed revised "Draft Ecosystem Quality Objectives" includes this fourth objective as a framework to which appropriate Implementation Objectives and Targets have been added.

The Riparian Habitat Committee understands CALFED's desire to develop Implementation Objectives and Targets by Ecological Unit, however, the identification of specific restoration targets on the Sacramento River is premature. The process of developing objectives and targets by reach is one of identifying problems, restoration potential, and workable solutions, with landowners and others who will be directly affected by the consequences of any proposed actions.

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This is the process the Riparian Habitat Committee is working through in developing the Sacramento River Conservation Area Handbook and a Sacramento River Conservation Association. The Handbook will describe existing baseline conditions, the potential for restoration, and an ecosystem approach for restoring resource potential by reach (Ecological Unit). The Association is envisioned as a nonprofit organization consisting of local representatives who will assume the responsibility for coordinating and implementing ecosystem restoration along the Sacramento River. It is anticipated that the Handbook will be completed by June 1997 and that the Association will be established this calendar year.

At this time, the most critical role of the CALFED process in the Sacramento River Ecological Zone should be to support existing and ongoing locally based planning efforts. Therefore, the revised "Draft Ecosystem Quality Objectives" was broadened to encompass the entire Sacramento River Ecological Zone. The Riparian Habitat Committee's technical subcommittee and I would be pleased to meet with you and your staff to discuss the development of detailed restoration targets and coordination issues.

CALFED's emphasis on an ecosystem approach is consistent with SB1086 and has tremendous potential for helping to restore a healthy Sacramento River system. On behalf of the Advisory Council and its Riparian Habitat Committee we look forward to working with CALFED to develop a restoration program that restores the integrity of upriver ecosystems and provides a productive, resilient foundation for the recovery of natural resources in the Bay-Delta estuary.

Sincerely,



Bob Bosworth, Chairman
Upper Sacramento River Advisory Council

Enclosure

cc: Diana Jacobs
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