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March 2, 1997

To: Program Managers

From: Rick Woodard *R*

Subject: CALFED Objectivity

Based on a review of the "Contaminants Vision" of the ERPP, it appears to me to contain traits that are similar to many of CALFED's other writings. The objective of this memo is to try to identify some of the things all CALFED staff need to watch out for in our writings, and is not intended specifically to pick on the ERPP. In the following examples, bold denotes suggested changes and italics discuss the sensitivities associated with the statement:

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D1 "Dormant spray pesticides enter rivers in winter runoff and enter the estuary in concentrations **can be** toxic to invertebrates." *Without modification, this is an absolute statement that is not adequately supported by data, and feeds a perception on the part of agricultural stakeholders that CALFED intends to apply a heavy hand.*

D2 "Chlorinated pesticides are still being detected in fish and wildlife within the Delta **and throughout the world.**" *Without modification, the reader may be left to suppose the problem described here is unique to the Delta. There is a need to try to put Delta issues in context with the rest of the world. PCB's, for example, are found in virtually all animal tissues on the planet. It is thought likely that, when new introductions of PCBs to the environment are ended, concentrations in tissues will reach equilibrium throughout the earth's organisms. It is very unlikely that anything can be done about it.*

D3 "Effluents from municipal and industrial sources are common **components** (contaminants) of mainstem rivers entering the Delta Estuary and Bay". *Adequately treated effluent is not a contaminant. Such a statement will upset permitted dischargers.*

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D4 "The successful regulation and reduction of rice herbicides in the Sacramento River demonstrates that it is possible to regulate non-point-source contaminants."
"The successful reduction of rice herbicides in the Sacramento River demonstrates that it is possible to successfully control nonpoint-source contaminants through cooperative efforts of farmers and regulators." *When moving through a list of sources, agricultural sources of contaminants are generally mentioned first. Regulation and enforcement also tend to be mentioned before other options. In this instance, cooperative effort was an important factor in the success of the program. CALFED should acknowledge and promote the spirit of cooperation, instead of assuming a regulatory perspective that implies the agricultural interests are the enemy.*

D5 "An aggressive program of habitat restoration will help to reduce agricultural point and nonpoint sources of pesticides, herbicides, mineral salts, and trace elements. Converting land from agricultural uses to fresh emergent wetland, seasonal wetland, riparian, oak woodland, and

contiguous perennial upland buffers will reduce the concentrations and loads of contaminants associated with current agricultural uses.”

“Land use conversion for habitat restoration has some potential to reduce pesticide loadings.”

The term “aggressive” is heavily value laden, and should only with caution be used to describe CALFED actions. Certainly this word should not appear here. To an agricultural stakeholder this says CALFED is planning to put you out of business and take your land away. And, CALFED is getting so desperate to accomplish this that they are trying to justify it on the basis of pesticide reduction. Agricultural stakeholders would contend that massive quantities of land would have to be confiscated in order to be able to measure the indirect effect of reduced pesticides in the receiving waters.

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“CALFED will target reductions in urban and industrial contaminant loading to the Bay and Delta Estuary by assisting responsible water quality agencies in their enforcement of existing source-control regulations, provide incentives for additional source control, guide urban planning and development projects, and endorse wastewater reclamation projects that control industrial and municipal effluent discharges.”

“CALFED will seek to reduce urban and industrial contaminant loading to the Bay and Delta Estuary by assisting formation of partnerships among dischargers and regulators. Through this approach, incentives would be found to encourage improved source control, better urban planning and development, and wastewater recycling projects that reduce contaminants.”

D7

The word “guide” implies direct control by CALFED. This makes people nervous. Again here, emphasis on enforcement as opposed to cooperative efforts.

While these observations apply only to the Contaminants Vision, the entire ERPP document should be read with such sensitivities in mind, as should all CALFED documents.

These comments should not be interpreted as reflecting badly on the ERPP report as a whole. It seems to me to be a well written report.

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