

~~1. Judy~~ 41-55

2. Fax to Carol Home

JAN 31 1997

WQ Comments

January 28, 1997

Lester A. Snow
Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1155
Sacramento, California 95814

Handwritten:
CALFED expansion
scope
outside scope of
WQ program

Dear Lester:

The San Joaquin River Group has been actively participating in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, but we are becoming increasingly concerned about the direction that the program is heading. CALFED appears to be expanding the scope of its efforts beyond the Delta to include the entire watershed upstream of the Bay-Delta. We believe that such an expansion is not within CALFED's mandate.

WQ P
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By focusing on upstream actions rather than on the Delta, the CALFED process has set a course that will require upstream water users to solve the problems others created in the Bay-Delta. The Bay-Delta cannot be fixed at the expense of agriculture. In particular, we are concerned with the suggestion of mandatory land following, mandatory efficient water management practices and the tributary ecosystem restoration program.

AXIS

Our agencies will not support mandatory land following. In addition, we all believe that efficient water management practices are an integral component to the management of the San Joaquin River basin's water supply. Many of the agencies represented by the San Joaquin River Group have signed or will soon sign the AB 3616 Memorandum of Understanding. In fact, many of the efficient water use practices identified in the MOU have long been practiced at considerable expense by San Joaquin River Group member agencies. However, mandatory conservation measures that ignore local conditions and constraints will do nothing to further CALFED's objectives but possibly only harm them. Mandatory water conservation measures must not be imposed on those agencies that do not receive a direct water supply benefit from the CALFED program.

WQ
(Low
Fall)

Nor does the tributary ecosystem restoration program contribute to solving CALFED's primary program objectives. By setting goals and targets for fish and wildlife in the upstream tributaries in the name of Delta 'ecosystem restoration', CALFED has expanded the Problem Area to include the upstream portion of the Solution Area. This is not within CALFED's mandate. CALFED is mandated to fix the broken Delta. Other existing programs, such as CVPIA/AFRP, San Joaquin River Management Program, FERC-mandated actions, and the San Joaquin River Group/Export Interests' Letter of Intent are directed at addressing problems in the upstream areas. While the upstream aspects of these other programs should be

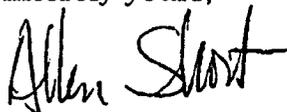
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Mr. Lester Snow
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coordinated with the CALFED program, CALFED does not have the authority or a mandate to supersede or to dictate actions to these other programs or the affected water agencies.

We strongly urge CALFED to stay within its original mandate and to develop a long-term solution to the Bay-Delta problems. With respect to the San Joaquin Basin, we believe that CALFED should assist and work with the San Joaquin River Group agencies in implementing habitat improvement projects in the tributaries. To that end, we appreciate the initial efforts of the CALFED staff to ensure that San Joaquin Basin fish habitat projects are considered for available funding.

Sincerely yours,



Allen Short, Chaiman
San Joaquin River Group

c: SJRG Members