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June 24, 1998

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

Transmittal of CUWA's Expert Panel Report on
Bay-Delta Water Quality Evaluation

Dear Mr. Snow:

I am pleased to transmit to you the final draft Bay-Delta Water Quality Evaluation Report, which was prepared by a panel of drinking water quality experts commissioned by the California Urban Water Agencies (CUWA) to independently assess source water quality needs from the Bay-Delta to meet future regulations. The Report was approved by the CUWA Board of Directors on June 5, 1998. This report completes an exhaustive, multi-year effort to provide CALFED with well-justified recommendations regarding assessment of Bay-Delta water quality criteria for key drinking water quality parameters. CUWA requests that CALFED incorporate the findings of this Report into your evaluation criteria for the analysis of the CALFED alternatives.

During the development of the Report, CUWA made a considerable effort to solicit input from a broad range of stakeholders in the CALFED process. This Report addresses comments received from such stakeholders, as well as the comments and requests received from CALFED agencies staff at the December 3, 1997, CALFED Drinking Water Target Session.

The Report concludes that in order for urban water agencies that treat Delta water supplies to meet potential long-term drinking water quality standards using cost-effective and feasible treatment technologies, the source water quality should have concentrations less than 3.0 mg/L for total organic carbon (TOC) and less than 50 µg/L for bromide. The report acknowledges that use of GAC or membrane treatment could broaden the allowable source water quality. However, the feasibility of implementing either GAC or membranes, particularly reverse osmosis, is uncertain. The report also addresses the implications of not meeting such targets, and presents an evaluation of the cost-effectiveness of several advanced water treatment technologies.

CUWA recommends that CALFED utilize this Report to provide background information and to serve as a starting point for the deliberations of the CALFED Bromide Expert Panel that will be convened to evaluate the significance of bromide with respect to a Bay-Delta solution.

CUWA would be glad to present this report to such a panel and answer any questions that they may have.

CUWA appreciates CALFED's consideration of this critical report. Please call me at (916) 552-2929, or Roy Wolfe, Chair of CUWA's Water Quality Committee, at (213) 217-6241, if you have any questions or if we can be of any assistance in providing information to the CALFED Bromide Expert Panel.

Sincerely,



Byron M. Buck
Executive Director

cc: Rick Woodard, CALFED
Felicia Marcus, Region IX, EPA
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