

Rick W.

February 17, 1998



Mr. Rick Woodard
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Rick:

I greatly appreciated the time you and Judy Heath spent with John Winther and me on Tuesday, February 10, to discuss the Delta Wetlands (DW) Project and water quality issues facing CALFED. As we discussed, I have located the references to salinity impacts of the DW Project on Delta exports and have provided the references below.

Water quality concerns have always been a primary focus in the environmental review of the DW Project. Although we were not directly responsible for developing of this information, we were able to include portions of it in our testimony for our 1997 water rights hearing. Jones & Stokes Associates, Inc. (JSA), the consultant for the State Water Resources Control Board, prepared Exhibit DW-4, an analysis of the project final operations criteria from the Endangered Species Act process. Beginning on page 12, the water quality effects of our project are discussed. The average export chloride concentrations are slightly improved (-0.4 mg/l) by the DW Project. This slight benefit may seem less than significant but when put in context with a project that increases Delta exports by over 150 TAF per year, it is quite remarkable. Copies of the relevant pages from DW-4 have been attached for your convenience.

Contra Costa Water District raised concerns with the JSA modeling approach and led us to contract with Flow Science to run the Fischer Delta Model (FDM) to evaluate the effects of the DW Project on the Los Vaqueros Project. The FDM resulted in quite similar results to the JSA work and were included in Exhibit DW-14 of our testimony. Beginning on page 10, water quality at Clifton Court Forebay is described. The average export TDS is slightly improved (3.4 ppm) by the DW Project. Again this slight benefit must be put into context by considering that the project can increase Delta exports and still decrease Delta salinity at the export locations. A copy of the relevant page from DW-14 (errata) has been attached for your convenience.

As we discussed, bromides may soon become one of the more important controlling parameters in the Delta. Although bromides were not directly modeled in our Draft EIR/S or for the water rights hearing, there exists a relatively constant ratio between chloride and bromide ions in Delta waters (approximately 0.0035). Therefore, a project impact (or as discussed above, a slight benefit) for chloride can be translated into a similar effect for bromide.

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We were happy to learn that in-Delta storage opportunities have not been excluded from the CALFED Programmatic EIR due out next month and look forward to reviewing and commenting on that document.

Again, thank you for making time in your busy schedule to discuss the DW Project and please contact us if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of David A. Forkel

David A. Forkel
Vice President

DAF:kf
Enclosures