

SOUTH DELTA WATER AGENCY

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October 25, 1999

Via Fax (916) 653-6985

Mr. Steve Macauley
Chief Deputy Director
Department of Water Resources
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: CALFED Water Management Development Team

Dear Mr. Macauley:

Thank you for your letter of October 22, 1999, regarding the CALFED WMDT. I appreciate your summary of the ongoing consideration of Delta crop shifts and in-Delta storage. I agree that Mr. Tom Zuckerman's participation in a discussion regarding crop shifting is adequate representation of Delta interests.

However, I believe the issue still remains as to whether or not the WMDT should have a member representing Delta interests. Your letter suggests that as proposals are raised and discussed, the team would then seek input from involved parties, or rely on the fact that such a proposal would only be done with local participation. Neither of these address the issue of whether or not local participation is necessary at these early stages. As you know, it is very difficult for an agency of our size to keep current with all of the various CALFED activities. Experience has shown that the development of proposals and plans under CALFED off times proceeds without any input from those parties the proposals will affect. I believe it would be more productive to have Delta representatives on any such water management team in order that our interests are adequately protected.

With regards to proposed crop shifts, the original program was an attempt in the drought to address an emergency situation. I believe most Delta interests would agree that CALFED

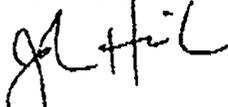
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should not consider a crop shift program in the absence of an emergency. To us, considering a method by which the Delta would use less water in order to firm up the supplies for other users would be contrary to the Delta Protection Act as well as CALFED's goals and objectives. Similarly, in-Delta storage would necessarily result in a decrease of prime agricultural land and cause resulting harm to related industries. Such consequences are clearly contrary to State policy which is to "sustain the long-term productivity of the State's agriculture by conserving and protecting the soil, water, and air which are agriculture's basic resources" (Phase II Report).

Again, I would appreciate you considering allowing Delta interests to be represented on the WMDT. Thank you for your time.

Please call me if you have any questions or comments.

Very truly yours,



JOHN HERRICK

JH/dd