

October 18, 1999 redraft

Mr. John Herrick
South Delta Water Agency
3031 West March lane, Suite 332 East
Stockton, CA 95267

Dear John:

This is in reply to your recent fax concerning the makeup of the CALFED Water Management Development Team (WMDT), and your particular concern that no Delta representatives are on the WMDT at a time when the subjects of Delta crop shifts and in-Delta storage are being considered. These matters are addressed separately below.

Delta Crop Shifts. Several stakeholder representatives at a recent WMDT meeting brought up the possibility of Delta crop shifting as a water management tool. As co-chair of the WMDT and as someone familiar with DWR's 1992 Delta crop shift study, I indicated DWR would provide information on the study to the technical staff so that meaningful consideration could be made. Very few people are even aware that we have studied this tool in the past. Following the meeting I discussed this matter with CALFED staff and we decided to invite Tom Zuckerman to participate in WMDT meetings upon his return from a trip out of the country. Tom is an obvious choice since a crop shift proposal was originally Tom's idea, and it resulted in a cooperative study with several farmers and landowners during the recent drought. DWR's report was distributed to Tom and the participating landowners and farmers when it was completed. If you or your clients do not have a copy, we would be glad to provide it to you.

At present, we consider Delta crop shifts in a conceptual manner. The narrow study we conducted during the recent drought was an attempt at quantifying water savings from growing less water-consuming crops on Delta lowland soils. Such crop shifts, as we both know, need to be considered in the context of irrigation practices and other factors unique to the land being considered. If they are to be a part of CALFED's water management strategy, crop shifts will need to be done as cooperative ventures with the landowners.

In-Delta Storage. In addition, several stakeholder representatives at a recent WMDT meeting brought up the possibility of in-Delta storage as a water management tool. The CALFED program has been considering the use of in-Delta storage in all of the alternatives from the very early stages of the alternative development and evaluation process. In general, the application and use of some type of in-Delta storage is being evaluated in a manner similar to that of the Delta Wetlands project. Again, this approach is to provide information that can inform the WMDT to assist in determining what types of assets are possible to increase project flexibility for CALFED's water management strategy. This type

of project would need to be done as a cooperative venture with landowners, and third party and other impacts would of course be factored into the development of this type of project. Tom would help on this issue as well.

I hope this letter responds to your concerns. Please call me at (916) 653-6055 if you would like to discuss this or any other matter.

Regards,

Steve Macaulay
Chief Deputy Director

(Advance copy faxed to 209-956-0154)

cc: CALFED Water Management Development Team