



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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February 2, 1999

Mary Nichols, Secretary
The Resources Agency
Co-Chair, CALFED Policy Group

Bob Perciasepe, Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Co-Chair, CALFED Policy Group

Dear Chairmen Nichols and Perciasepe:

First we would like to extend a warm welcome to our new State Policy Group Co-Chair, Secretary Nichols. We look forward to your involvement in the CALFED Program this year. And we would like also to take this opportunity to thank you, Mr. Perciasepe, for your tireless efforts on the CALFED Policy Group over the past three years.

We are writing this letter to you to encourage you to consider strengthening communications between the Bay-Delta Advisory Council and the CALFED Policy Group. As you know, the Bay-Delta Advisory Council (BDAC) has served as the public advisory body to the CALFED Program since its inception in 1995. As the Program has evolved, we have come to the conclusion that the Program could be better served with more integration of some of the deliberations of both the policy decision-makers and the public advisors to CALFED. Historically, Council membership has included both federal and state representatives, who are also active members of the CALFED Policy Group. In addition, other Policy Group members on occasion have attended BDAC meetings. As the Program approaches the final months of planning and begins its transition to implementation, we think that it may be an appropriate time to consider ways to create more direct communication between the policy makers and the public.

In order to strengthen communication between the two CALFED entities, we would like to propose the following suggestions to you:

- First, we would like to suggest convening a joint meeting of the Policy Group with BDAC. This meeting could coincide with release of the revised draft EIR/S in June

CALFED Agencies

California The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

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with the purpose of addressing a specific issue or set of issues which might benefit from joint policy/public deliberation.

- Second, we would like to extend an invitation for individual Policy Group members to participate in BDAC meetings throughout 1999. We will be convening meetings in several locations throughout the state as well as in Sacramento. Our agendas will be highly focused, with active discussion on issues provided by panels of BDAC members as well as stakeholders. BDAC will be focusing its deliberations on CALFED governance and finance and other policy issues, including the water management strategy and the role of storage in the CALFED Program.
- Third, both of us are available to participate as needed at Policy Group meetings through the end of this year.

Please advise us as to your interest in pursuing any of these avenues. We look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Sincerely,



Mike Madigan, Chair
Bay-Delta Advisory Council



Sunne McPeak, Vice Chair
Bay-Delta Advisory Council