

# WOODBIDGE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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November 3, 1999

Mr. Carl L. Werder  
 CALFED Project Manager  
 U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
 2800 Cottage Way, MP 190, Rm. E-2710  
 Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

Re: Cooperative Agreement 1425-98-FC-20-16650

Dear Mr. Werder

This letter is in addition to our October 21, 1999 letter regarding the completion of work under the Cooperative Agreement 1425-98-FC-20-16650 between the United States Bureau of Reclamation and the Woodbridge Irrigation District. With this letter we request a contract amendment to extend the completion date of the project to October 15, 2001. The additional time is needed to complete project design and regulatory agency review and permitting. No additional funding is being requested.

The Program's original schedule called for environmental work and fish passage design work to be completed on a parallel basis. Instead, the environmental permitting has had to be completed prior to initiating the design work. The alternatives analysis called for in the "Cooperative Agreement" required a greater effort than anticipated. A large number of project alternatives were analyzed and screened to the satisfaction of a working group composed of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, California Department of Fish and Game, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fishery Service, and East Bay Municipal Utility District. Further, because the alternatives analysis led to serious consideration of several fish passage and fish screen alternatives in the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) design work could not begin prior to selection of the preferred alternative.

The EIR/EIS draft has recently been published, with the public review period scheduled to end on January 4, 2000. Following the public review period and consideration of comments, Woodbridge and the City of Lodi, in consultation with the working group will select a preferred alternative and publish the final EIS/EIR. The environmental permitting process, will also begin at that time and is anticipated to be completed by June 30, 2000. At that time, work on the design of the preferred fish passage and fish screen facilities can be undertaken. It is expected that the design work with agency review and approval will take up to 15 months to complete. Therefore, the projected earliest completion date of this Cooperative Agreement would be October 15, 2001.

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The process we have undertaken, while lengthening the time necessary to complete the work, has strengthened support for the project by building consensus among the interested parties. Failure to extend the time frame for this Agreement would cause work on the EIR/EIS to be halted prior to completion, effectively preventing the design work from beginning, and stopping the whole process.

Funding of the Lower Mokelumne River Restoration Project remains a strong investment in helping to meet ERP goals and targets. Considering its water yield, the Mokelumne River supports one of the healthier fall run Chinook salmon populations to the Delta. Additionally, the Mokelumne plays a key role in maintaining habitat for many listed species and other organisms. The Lower Mokelumne Restoration Program is coordinated with many other programs proposed for the lower Mokelumne River in the areas of riparian improvement, sediment management, levee relocation, screening small diversions, fish marking and tagging, monitoring, and watershed management.

In summary, CALFED and the USBR should continue strongly supporting the project by granting an amendment to our Cooperative Agreement extending the completion of the contract to October 15, 2001. We are available to appear before CALFED Roundtable Amendment Subcommittee to explain our request. If you have any questions, please advise.

Sincerely,



Anders Christensen, Manager  
Woodbridge Irrigation District

enc: Revised Project Timetable

cc: Wendy Halverson,  
CALFED Restoration Coordinator

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