

SOUTH DELTA WATER AGENCY

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FEB 7 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

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February 4, 2000

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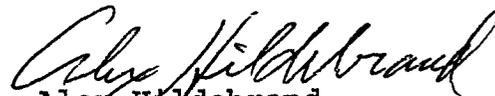
Dear Ms. Kelley:

Thank you for your February 3 letter which responded to my question at the January 19 CALFED Policy Group meeting regarding operation of the Clifton Court intake.

We are pleased that your "Conditions for Use of Additional Pumping" was revised on February 2 to state that "All three temporary agricultural barriers must be in place and operating when diversion increases occur. Adverse impacts on local water users must be avoided". The revision also states that "increased diversions will only be made if the Clifton Court gates can be operated within Priorities 1, 2, or 3. We don't believe that it is reasonable to say that this commitment for Clifton Court operation only applies "During the first year" of a proposed three year permit. Furthermore, it has been our understanding that Priority 3 type operation would be avoided even under normal export rates when there might otherwise be an impact on South Delta water levels. We recognize that operation of all three tidal barriers is our primary protection, but the implication that Priority 3 might be used when the barriers are not in place is very disturbing.

We appreciate the clarification that has been provided, but request that you address our remaining concerns.

Sincerely,


Alex Hildebrand

cc Steve Ritchie
Patrick Wright

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