

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program



January 28, 2000

Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CALFED
1416 Ninth Street, 11th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95690

Subject: Delta Protection Commission Review of CALFED's Straw Governance Proposal

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

The Delta Protection Commission reviewed the "Straw" Governance Proposal at its November 17, 1999 and January 27, 2000 meetings. The Commission discussed the proposal to create a new State-federal agency to implement the CALFED program after the Record of Decision is approved. Because the Delta is "ground zero" for implementation of the CALFED program, it is critical that the new agency members include representatives familiar with the Delta region, its residents, land uses, and issues. The Delta Protection Commission supports integrating a number of Delta representatives into the designations in the "straw" proposal.

The Commission supports the concept of one agency to oversee the entire CALFED program. One agency would keep all parties at the table; would ensure that all aspects of the program move forward together; would provide comprehensive fiscal oversight; and would be more cost effective.

The Commission had the following comments on the make-up of the proposed agency:

1. One of the State Agencies on the Proposed CALFED Commission should be the Delta Protection Commission. The Commission is a State agency with land use planning responsibilities in the Primary Zone of the Delta. The Commission also provides oversight of land use changes in the Primary Zone. Because the Commission has a unique knowledge of Delta land use issues, and can provide a forum for public input and debate of issues in the Delta, the Commission would be a vital and important agency to include on the CALFED Commission.

2. One of the "Stakeholder" Seats should be a Delta Landowner in the Primary Zone of the Delta. The "straw" proposal recommends that six public or "stakeholder" seats be included on the CALFED Commission. The proposal indicates that one seat should be a "Delta" seat. The Delta Protection Commission recommends that the public Delta representative be a Delta landowner within the Primary Zone of the Delta to ensure the implementing body has access to the local Delta perspective and knowledge.
3. The CALFED Commission Should Include Two or More Local Government Representatives from the Five Delta Counties. Local governments statewide will have much of the responsibility for carrying out the CALFED program. Local governments are also closest to the voters/taxpayers/water users/recreational users whom the program serves. There should be strong local government representation from the five Delta Counties.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed Governance proposal. The Commission looks forward to working with CALFED on these matters in the future.

Sincerely,



Margit Aramburu
Executive Director

cc: Kate Hansel, CALFED



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