



CALIFORNIA URBAN WATER AGENCIES

March 10, 2000

COPY

Mr. Paul Helliker
Director
Department of Pesticide Regulation
California Environmental Protection Agency
1020 N Street, Room 100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Helliker:

Several years ago the California Urban Water Agencies¹ (CUWA) conducted a literature review on the effects of pesticides on the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and the Delta. We worked with your staff to obtain information on studies conducted by DPR and several of your staff members reviewed the various drafts of our report. During the course of this project, we attempted to obtain pesticide usage information for the Central Valley and discovered that the pesticide usage database was inaccessible to the scientific community outside of the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) and DPR staff only had access to data collected in recent years. We met with your predecessor, James Wells, to discuss our project and the pesticide usage database and we offered funding and technical assistance to improve the database. At that time, DPR was unwilling to accept any technical or financial assistance from CUWA.

We believe the information on pesticide usage contained in the database would be extremely valuable to scientists conducting water quality investigations and to ecosystem restoration projects currently being conducted or planned as part of the CALFED Program. We understand that DPR submitted a proposal for CALFED funding to improve the database and make it accessible over the internet. It is our understanding that the project has not been funded by CALFED. CUWA would like to work with DPR to make the pesticide usage database more accessible to the scientific community. We would like to meet with you to discuss ideas on how we can accomplish this goal.

Please call me at (916) 552-2929 to discuss this issue and to arrange a meeting. We look forward to working with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

Byron Buck
Director

cc: Winston Hickox, Secretary for Environmental Protection
Steve Ritchie, Acting Director, CALFED

¹ The California Urban Water Agencies (CUWA) is an organization of twelve municipal water providers serving over 22 million water consumers in the City of Sacramento, San Francisco Bay Area and Southern California. CUWA's member agencies use about 90% of the urban water supplies diverted from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and its tributaries.