



Community
Alliance with
Family
Farmers
Foundation

TO: Lester Snow
BDAC Members
FROM: Judith Redmond, Community Alliance with Family Farmers
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On the attached pages we have provided a ranking of the proposed actions presented at the last BDAC meeting. Our ranking reflects strong faith in the ability of people to change resource management practices at the source of the problem as opposed to an over-reliance on new technology or engineering.

There are long-term benefits to this approach. Building the capacity of locally employed people as well as of regional and state agencies to restore and improve habitat will be beneficial to water management as well as to local economies.

CAFF has had some preliminary success in changing pest management use patterns in one California almond growing region where the use of dormant sprays causes water quality problems in the Delta. Our approach requires cooperation between the private, public and non-profit sectors as well as the use of a team-learning model for resource managers. The many positive results that we have experienced as a result of this program (called BIOS, Biologically Integrated Orchard Systems) tend to steer us away from approaches which rely on "experts," or new technological fixes.

I hope that the ranking exercise proves useful to BDAC. What made it especially difficult for CAFF was our concern that even the best of plans often fail in implementation. Many BDAC member groups, including CAFF can describe failures of well-meaning bureaucratic regulatory procedures when applied to the management of biological systems. In this regard, the "Solution Principles" stated as part of the mission statement will be especially important.

We have a few comments on these Solution Principles. As you know, we are disappointed with the insipid restatement of the important principal that there should be no redirected impacts so that it now reads there will be no *significant* redirected impacts. Citizens with little political influence and few financial resources are all too used to being marginalized so that adverse impacts upon their livelihood are considered insignificant. This is certainly the case in the small towns of the San Joaquin Valley.

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Further, the description, in Solution Principles, of "equitable" completely misses the point in our opinion. Equitable is now defined as "resolving problems in all problem areas," rather than as equal representation and participation by all affected constituencies. It was the participatory nature of the BDAC process that gave us a glimmer of hope. It is very important to state explicitly the principle that creation and implementation of solutions will be equitable, inclusive and participatory.