

February 13, 1996

Lester Snow
Program Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, #1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Lester:

CALFED is now involved in the formulation of alternatives to be analyzed in the Environmental Impact Statement/Report (EIS/R) for the Bay-Delta long-term process. We support your efforts to develop a broad range of water supply and ecosystem alternatives for the long-term.

However, we are concerned that the CALFED process seems to be moving forward with limited regard for the implementation of the CVPIA. In light of the inherent interdependence of these two processes, we believe it is incumbent upon the CALFED program to design long-term alternatives that would, at a minimum, fully implement the CVPIA ecosystem restoration provisions.

The connection between the CVPIA and CALFED's development of long-term alternatives is explicit. The CVPIA ecosystem restoration measures were an essential part of the base assumptions underlying the Bay-Delta accord of December 15, 1994. The accord built upon the beginning provided by the CVPIA to move towards long-term ecosystem restoration. In other words, the CVPIA measures should produce marked improvement in the condition of the Bay-Delta ecosystem even in the absence of the CALFED process. Thus, each of the long-term alternatives developed by CALFED must provide for full and effective implementation of the restoration measures contained in the CVPIA as it was originally enacted. Failing to give full effect to the CVPIA ecosystem restoration provisions would constitute a fundamental retreat from the baseline established by the Bay-Delta accord.

As you are aware, efforts are underway, which we actively oppose, to weaken substantially key segments of the CVPIA. Even if the statute changes, the bargain struck by the parties to the Bay-Delta accord will not. Retreat from CVPIA ecosystem restoration programs that might occur as a result of amendments to the CVPIA, would only mean that the burden to ensure implementation of the full array of ecosystem requirements established by the CVPIA and the accord would shift entirely to the CALFED program. In this regard, the CALFED program must work to design long-term alternatives that fully incorporate the baseline ecosystem measures currently encompassed by the CVPIA.

In light of the fast track for the development of the EIS/R alternatives, we request that this issue be discussed at the coming BDAC meeting, that CALFED prepare an analysis of the CVP Reform Act and the issues it raises for the CALFED process, and that you respond regarding how these concerns will be factored into the alternatives

analysis phase currently under way. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to a productive discussion.

Sincerely,

Pietro Parravano

Pietro Parravano

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Hap Dunning

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