



February 15, 1996

Mr. Lester Snow
Manager
CALFED Bay / Delta Program
California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

We are writing to provide you with our views regarding the CALFED draft list of action categories and actions outlined in your December 21, 1995, memo to the Bay-Delta Advisory Council (BDAC). Our views are consistent with those of the Northern California Water Association (NCWA).

NCWA is supportive of CALFED's efforts to resolve water supply and environmental problems in the Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta and San Francisco Bay (Bay/Delta). Our intent is to participate in the development of a long-term solution that culminates in increased water supply reliability and increased protection for environmental habitat. We believe the CALFED alternatives must be balanced and provide reasonable benefits for all of the regions in the Bay/Delta watershed.

In this regard, rather than comment on individual components of various plans we believe it is appropriate to address the whole plan. These comments are consistent with NCWA's previously articulated position relative to state and federal Bay/Delta efforts.

A February 2, 1996 draft of potential CALFED core actions, lists specific criteria for selecting core actions. We believe the following principles are appropriate core action criteria, and elements of all CALFED program alternatives.

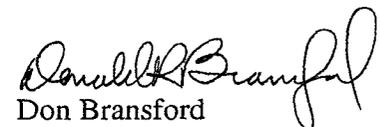
1. California's water rights priority system and state law and policy regarding commitments to the areas of origin must be reaffirmed and honored as part of any final Bay/Delta plan.
2. CALFED alternatives should include comprehensive measures that address water supply reliability and the resolution of environmental problems within the Bay/Delta watershed.
 - A. These measures should include appropriate programs to address environmental restoration in Northern California, such as fish screens for agricultural water diversions.

- B. Alternatives should include development of environmentally sensitive off-stream storage. The Department of Water Resources is currently investigating the feasibility of such a facility; an off-stream reservoir in Sites Valley.
- 3. CALFED alternatives should be consistent with existing restoration efforts and agricultural activities. For example, the alternatives should not jeopardize private programs to provide waterfowl habitat in the Sacramento Valley.

We encourage you to consider these principles so that Northern California can be actively involved in a cooperative process that seeks to achieve a solution beneficial to all Californians. We would be pleased to meet with you, or other BDAC representatives, at anytime to discuss these issues.

Sincerely,


Tib Belza
Chairman


Don Bransford
Vice Chairman