

**Remarks by James Blake, Vice-Chairman, MWD
at the Bay-Delta Advisory Council Meeting -- March 20, 1996**

- **Introduction** -- We are pleased with the success the CALFED Bay-Delta staff are having in building participation in the process, both on the technical and the policy levels. We feel that to solve the problems of the Bay-Delta Estuary we need to address: (1) the issues in a statewide context; and (2) the concerns of all affected parties. Two-thirds of California's urban community is dependent on the Bay-Delta system for water. In my view, these urban water users need three primary things in the long term fix: (1) a more reliable water supply; (2) improved water quality; and (3) a sustainable biological system, particularly for endangered fish species.
- **Comprehensive Ecosystem Restoration** -- We believe a comprehensive ecosystem restoration program is critical to the development of a successful alternative. The water users who have put up early cash to get this going want real environmental results, not just money spending. We favor early start projects and early win-wins through Category III. The CALFED plan needs to integrate all these activities and provide the framework to manage this ecosystem.
- **Urban Water Quality** -- The current alternatives seem to underemphasize the importance of "urban" water quality. I have heard many say that it is only a treatment cost issue. I disagree. Water quality is as much a treatment cost issue as it is a water management issue. In Metropolitan's service area, we need high quality source water for effective surface water-groundwater conjunctive use and for wastewater recycling. Our Integrated Resources Plan calls for tripling reclamation and adding 400,000 acre-feet of groundwater production. This is simply not possible without low-TDS water. The better the quality, the less water we will need because we can get multiple use out of each acre-feet delivered.
- **Reliability** -- Under pre-December 1994 Accord conditions, water deliveries were not reliable nor predictable. This is of critical concern to southern California. Our area's future demand is projected to increase by 1 million acre-feet by the year 2010. The key to establishing long-term reliability is to: convey water to storage during times of plenty and cut back strongly during droughts; and develop agreements for Endangered Species Act (ESA) relief. To be able to accomplish this, we must evaluate the effectiveness of the alternatives in storing and conveying water for all uses (urban, agricultural, and environmental), and we must develop multi-species agreements (similar to the pre-listing agreements implemented at Metropolitan's new East-Side Reservoir project).
- **Demand Management / Local Resource Development** -- We continue to strongly support the development of demand management being a Core Action to any

alternative. Metropolitan is currently implementing a program that includes aggressive local investments in conservation (beyond the implementation of BMPs), water recycling, groundwater recovery, ocean desalinization, and groundwater storage. This program is expected to save over 730,000 acre-feet per year by 2010. However, it should be noted that these significant water savings are already part of our integrated resource plan for meeting new supplies. Any new demand management alternatives implemented would be on top of these programs, causing significant increase in investments.

- **Appropriate Guarantees / Alignment of Interests** -- CALFED should continue evaluating programs that emphasize the alignment of Stakeholder interests. A few of these programs are currently being implemented, such as: (1) the new real-time fish monitoring program which provides a positive adaptive management approach for both the environment and water users; and (2) the drought water bank, which provides a market-incentive approach to meeting regional demands. Other concepts that should be evaluated by CALFED include: joint use (environmental & water user) storage & conveyance programs; an institutional foundation for an active water market; demand management incentive programs; and others

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