

# MOUNTAIN COUNTIES WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION

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April 2, 1996

Marcia L. Basque  
Executive Director  
Regional Council of Rural Counties  
1020 12th Street  
Suite 200-A  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Participation in Bay-Delta  
Proceedings

Dear Marcia:

The purpose of this letter is to follow-up on RCRC's March 29 meeting to consider its major financial commitment to participation in the Bay-Delta proceedings, including the proceedings before the State Board, CALFED, and in the negotiations involving the various user groups.

I must tell you that it was disturbing to hear the self-serving characterizations made by Messrs. Mills and Jackson to your membership to the effect that the area of origin interests, including those of your rural counties, have been unrepresented in the process to this point.

Enclosed for your information in this regard are three statements Mountain Counties has made before the State Board on this matter as well as its recent correspondence with Sen. Costa. Furthermore, as the Mountain Counties comments of April 1, 1996 point out, the area of origin position has been fully aired in other submittals by our individual members as well as by other groups, such as the Upstream Rightholders and DITAC, which include many of our members. These same representations have been made in the CALFED process, and further participation by Mountain Counties and its members will take place there.

For your further information, Mountain Counties, which includes many of your rural county members, sometime ago requested participation in BDAC which was refused. An appeal to the Governor on this point was unavailing. If a seat is about to be given to RCRC as Mr. Mills has stated, we too would expect to be there,

assuming BDAC is even clear on the distinction between the two groups.

You may recall that last year Messrs. Meacher and Jackson urged their point of view before the Mountain Counties. There was some concern among our membership then and now about the approach being taken on the water rights issues, and about Mr. Jackson's longstanding representation of the California Sportsfishing Protection Alliance which is not exactly known for its interest in furthering County water development. I also understand that Mr. Jackson urged the State Board in his comments of September 18, 1995 to allocate responsibility for solving the Bay-Delta water problem on the basis of equitable apportionment among river basins, which is contrary to the views of our members as expressed in the positions of the Upstream Rightholders and in our enclosed comments to the Board of April 1, 1996.

RCRC has apparently nevertheless made a judgment to fund its own ambitious effort fairly late in the proceedings, although it's not clear, to me at least, how that participation can significantly affect the outcome or dispositively augment the positions already put forward by Mountain Counties and other groups urging area of origin protection. However, RCRC is bringing meaningful attention to the watershed management issue and perhaps there is a way the two groups can coordinate on that issue.

In any event, I wanted to make the record on this important subject clear to you and your membership.

Sincerely,



Christopher D. Williams

Enc.

cc: MCWRA BOD