



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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March 11, 1997

Environmental Water Caucus
P. O. Box 471958
San Francisco, CA 94147-1958

Dear Caucus Members:

I have received your letter of February 26, 1997 transmitting the Environmental Water Caucus' "Criteria for Analysis of the CALFED Phase II Alternatives." Many of the issues raised in the letter and its attachments are incorporated into Program content or are part of the Impact Analysis phase. Rather than attempting to respond technically to each of the specific points raised in the submittal, I would prefer to schedule a meeting in order to better understand the Environmental Water Caucus issues in the context of CALFED Program components and elements.

An overriding policy concern raised by your submittal is the apparent prejudgment (i.e., without completion of analysis) of Alternative 3 facilities and also of potential outcomes (water supply). While I know both of these topics are of interest and concern not only to the environmental community but other interest groups, we are committed to looking at a range of alternatives from no facilities to major changes in both storage and conveyance, and collaterally, no water supply to increased water supply and transfer opportunities. It is extremely important that all interest groups and stakeholders stay engaged as we work through these difficult analytical issues. It is important for the public's sake that we avoid preselection.

I would like to schedule a meeting within the next two weeks to discuss both the technical issues as well as the broader policy issues raised in your submittal.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service