

MAR 26 1997

23443 S. Hays Road
Manteca, CA 95337
March 10, 1997

Lester Snow and BDAC Members
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: San Joaquin Watershed Management Plan

Dear Lester and Fellow Council Members:

The attached memorandum describes an example of the potential for improving water use efficiency by better multiple use and reuse of water on a watershed basis. It is entitled Comprehensive Management of Water Quality, Water Supply, and Instream Flows in the San Joaquin River System. Its authors believe that it provides net benefits to all interests. In fact, a premise in the development of the proposal has been that it must not benefit some interests at the expense of others. This philosophy is not only equitable, but makes implementation more likely.

No major facilities or costs are required. It is our understanding that if the plan is adopted the Bureau of Reclamation is able and willing to finance the recirculation costs and a limited amount for wetland facility costs for drainage control.

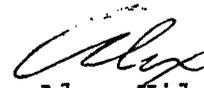
We urge prompt implementation of the plan on a trial basis at a level that can be achieved with existing facilities.

Collaborators in developing the plan include representatives of westside wetland and agricultural drainers, tributary districts, the Friant Water Users Authority, the San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority, and the South Delta Water Agency. It has been discussed with Deputy Secretary John Garamendi, Roger Patterson, Fish and Wildlife representatives, and others.

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We do not imply that the plan includes all opportunities for more efficient and equitable watershed management, but we believe it represents a substantial step forward that can be implemented promptly with very modest cost.

Sincerely,



Alex Hildebrand

cc: John Garamendi
Roger Patterson
David Kennedy
Judith Redmond (BDAC Water Efficiency)
Kevin Wolf (Stanislaus Stakeholders)
Ric Woodard (BDAC Water Quality)
Dale Hoffman-Floerke (SJRMP)

Copies to all collaborators

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