

Regional Council of Rural Counties JUN 20 1997



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June 9, 1997

Mr. Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED
1416 9th Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Lester:

After more than a year of participation as a BDAC Member in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program representing the Supervisors from the Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC) and its 25-Member Counties, I am pleased to submit to you the following conceptual document. As the end of Phase II approaches, I wanted to provide CALFED, the BDAC Members, and the active Stakeholders the enclosed written conceptual expression of RCRC's philosophy relative to this historical restoration endeavor. This document reflects the foundation of RCRC's CALFED Bay-Delta efforts.

Through our proactive participation, RCRC has been working to ensure that CALFED's collaborative effort to restore the Bay-Delta does not benefit one ecosystem to the detriment of another. It is paramount that ecosystem restoration programs as part of the CALFED process are implemented consistent with the adopted CALFED Solution Principles. One of those Principles provides that the Delta solution will not be achieved through redirecting impacts from one geographic area to another. In this regard, RCRC supports restoration plans and/or projects that would restore the Delta Ecosystem, so long as they are consistent with this Principle. Therefore, RCRC believes that restoration plans must include those watershed areas both above and below the dams in an equitable manner.

As you know, RCRC intends to continue to promote the restoration of the Bay-Delta through an array of watershed management programs that produce a variety of benefits to the downstream ecosystem. Most watershed management programs will be designed to accomplish at least the following: improve water quality, reduce both point and non-point source pollution, restore stream banks and down-cut channels, restore natural stream hydrology, improve riparian habitat, reduce the potential for catastrophic fires, reduce erosion and downstream sediment loads, restore meadow groundwater tables, time shifting of accretion and runoff through non-structural means to a more natural late spring and summer period, and produce potential water yield benefits.

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Because our watersheds are connected to the Bay-Delta, not by man, or by politics, but by the laws of nature, RCRC is confident that watershed restoration and protection programs are an integral part of the Bay-Delta solution. In closing, we want to thank you and your staff for understanding that the Bay-Delta solution is part of a larger water and biological resource system, and that many problems related to the Bay-Delta are caused by factors outside the Bay-Delta, or could be addressed with solutions outside the Bay-Delta.

With this being said, RCRC looks forward to its continued active involvement in the Bay-Delta/CALFED Process, and contributing to what we believe to be the most important restoration effort ever undertaken.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Robert A. Meacher, BDAC Member
Chair, RCRC Water Advisory Committee

CC: The Honorable Ken Marks, President, RCRC
RCRC Delegates
Anthony W. Farrington, Special Programs Coordinator
Michael B. Jackson, Legal Counsel, RCRC
John S. Mills, Consultant, RCRC

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