

97-194

# Regional Council of Rural Counties



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Mary Selkirk, Chair  
BDAC Ecosystem Restoration Work Group  
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Dear Ms. Selkirk:

We have reviewed the informational materials developed by the CALFED staff in reference to the Scientific Review Panel concept. It is our understanding that this panel would be expected to provide answers to the questions as developed in your latest mailing packet.

While we find the concept promising and hope that the resulting answers from the panel would be helpful, we do have some specific concerns. Question #3 states:

*What are the conceptual strengths and weaknesses of pursuing this approach of tiering of actions? In your experience, under what circumstances would restoration of ecological processes or habitat beyond the ERPP's focused Ecological Zones (the uppermost areas of tributary watersheds, the South San Francisco Bay and the near shore ocean) result in measurable benefits to the Delta itself?*

This question focuses only on restoration efforts related to activities and events which have already taken place. It would seem logical to also ask a second question as a subset of this issue. We suggest adding:

"To what extent do activities, man-made or natural, in areas outside of the Ecological Zones (including the upper watersheds and near-shore ocean), result in consequences to the tributaries of the Delta and the Delta itself. To what extent do these activities affect Delta Ecological processes?"

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This would seem to require someone with experience in a similar set of problems or circumstances but not the Bay-Delta. We would point out that it would be of critical importance to have personnel on the panel with some experience related to the issues at hand. With reference to the questions we identified above, as well as some of your questions related to the concept of Ecological Zones (and their boundaries), and "tiering" of actions we believe that a panel member with expertise in an ecological system of broad geographic scope is essential. With this being said, we suggest Dr. Don Erman of the University of California at Davis.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on this process and look forward to participating in the four day workshop.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Meacher, Chair, RCRC Water Advisory Committee  
BDAC Member  
Supervisor, County of Plumas

cc: The Honorable Ken Marks, President, RCRC  
Mr. Lester Snow, Executive Director, CALFED  
Mr. Dan Craig, U.S. Forest Service