



Westlands Water District

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September 12, 1997

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Mr. Michael Madigan, Chairman
Bay-Delta Advisory Committee
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Madigan:

I understand that Mr. Tom Graff distributed several documents at the Sept. 4 Bay-Delta Advisory Committee meeting, including a copy of the table, "Westlands Water Use At-A-Glance - June 1997" (attached). Unfortunately, I was unable to attend this BDAC meeting and therefore, did not hear Mr. Graff's comments or the ensuing discussion.

However, I understand it was suggested the table shows Westlands with a 120 percent supply for 1997, far in excess of what the District "expected" to receive under the Accord. I understand it was further implied that these "facts" demonstrate that Westlands has not been hurt by the CVPIA, and therefore the Department of the Interior has not "used the (B) (2) water."

The suggestion that Westlands has received a 120 percent supply in 1997 is factually incorrect. I thought it would be helpful to you and other BDAC members to have a clear understanding of Westlands' current supply situation and how our reliability has been impacted since the CVP Improvement Act and the Bay-Delta Accord.

As the discussion below demonstrates, Westlands has received less than a full CVP supply in two of the last three years - despite wet years and record flood flows. Westlands was able to augment its supplies through water purchases, but the purchased water was available only because most areas of the state had water surpluses as a result of the wet hydrology.

In 1997, Westlands is receiving 1,030,000 acre-feet (AF) of ag supply from the CVP, 90 percent of its CVP contractual entitlement. Fortunately, we are able to augment our CVP supply from a variety of sources this year to provide a total of 1,437,332 AF, but not without incurring significant additional costs and uncertainty. Westlands' total annual needs, based on about 570,000 acres in production, is approximately 1.4 to 1.5 million AF, including the use of about 150,000 to 200,000 AF of safe yield groundwater.

As the table shows, 53,035 AF of supply is provided this year through transfers made by individual District farmers to cover the shortfall in their water supplies. An additional 116,264 AF of our 1997 supplies were made available from rescheduled water, a portion of Westlands CVP entitlement carried-over from 1996. It's important to understand that rescheduled water is not "extra" CVP water that wasn't needed by the farmers last year; rather, it represents water saved from last year's entitlement as a result of purchases Westlands made early in last year's growing season due to uncertainties in the 1996 CVP allocation.

The District also was able to acquire an additional 229,529 AF of "supplemental water," direct purchases and exchanges from other CVP and non-CVP water districts. Supplemental water is almost always short-term in nature, is subject to great uncertainty, and often is accompanied by an