

**BDAC MEMBERS
CORRESPONDENCE**



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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February 23, 1998

Alex Hildebrand
23443 South Hays Road
Manteca, CA 95337

Dear Alex:

Attached are materials from CALFED staff prepared in response to some of the specific questions you raised in your facsimile dated December 14, 1997, and letter dated December 21, 1997. We are also in receipt of your most recent letter dated February 6, 1998. We are in the process of drafting a complete response to issues 1 through 3. I hope that the enclosed documents will provide you with some of the technical detail you have requested in prior communications regarding the isolated facility and associated costs and impact to agricultural lands.

In your December letter you again raised the policy issue regarding the role of transfers in the CALFED Program. As you know, a strong transfers market is an essential component of the CALFED water management approach. Over the next few months CALFED staff will be drafting a comprehensive document outlining the role of voluntary transfers in the overall CALFED Program as well as the critical outstanding issues which need to be addressed, either administratively, or through legislation. These issues, as you know, include protection against significant negative third party or environmental impacts, as well as the need for a uniformly agreed-upon definition of transferable water. Your active participation in the Water Transfers Work Group, and your views on these specific issues, will provide the CALFED staff with vital input.

Additionally, the CALFED Program is working in a number of arenas to encourage the state to move forward on developing a policy on preservation of prime agricultural lands and agricultural land conversion. I have encouraged the state Water Policy Council to make this an issue of highest priority, and we will continue to work closely with the Department of Food and Agriculture.

Sincerely,

Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

Enclosures

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
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service