

**COMMENTS BY
JOHN COLEMAN
PRESIDENT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT
BEFORE THE
BAY-DELTA ADVISORY COUNCIL
JULY 16, 1998**

I would like to welcome everyone here today on the home ground of the East Bay Municipal Utility District. We at East Bay MUD have been supporters of the CALFED process since its inception, and look forward to continuing this consensus-based work to the final environmental documentation, and beyond to the program implementation.

I will briefly mention a few areas that East Bay MUD has been working in that are directly connected to CALFED's goals. I am pleased to note that this year we have doubled our budget for water conservation, reflecting an increased commitment by the East Bay MUD Board to real water savings. We have begun a highly popular program that provides cash incentives to increase residential landscape irrigation efficiency and convert to water-conserving landscaping. We are also forging ties with the community by offering free retrofits of entire buildings of low income, multi-family dwellings with low flow toilets and fixtures. Over 9,000 units have already been signed up for this benefit. Our goal is to save 35 MGD through water conservation by the year 2020. This is a significant amount of water, given our customer population of 1.2 million people. By way of comparison, our service area population is about 7% of that in the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

The District has adopted a policy for rationing during drought of up to 25%. This will require up to 35% reductions from single family customers. These programs and our other efforts in demand management have clearly had an impact: our total water consumption is about the same today as it was in 1968, despite an increase of 26% in our population since then. As a result of our demand management programs, our water use will increase by only 5% in the next 22 years.

East Bay MUD is also proceeding with efforts to assure a reliable water supply during drought through our contract for water from the American River. This project is consistent with, and complementary to the CALFED program in providing for regional water supply solutions. In addition, this project will provide for additional flow releases down the Mokelumne, meet fishery needs and support a locally-developed conjunctive use project in San Joaquin County.

East Bay MUD strongly supports the stakeholder-led effort to develop a strategic plan for CALFED's ecosystem restoration program. Such a "master plan" is essential if we are to achieve stability in both the ecosystem and water supply reliability. Recognizing our own responsibilities in the stewardship of natural resources, East Bay MUD has invested more than \$11M, and committed another \$15M, to protect and enhance the Mokelumne River ecosystem, with excellent results in salmon returns over the last six years. We have made available some handouts on the table that will give you a clearer idea of the gains that we have seen.

In light of this accomplishment, we urge CALFED to evaluate the impacts of all of its programs on the Mokelumne fisheries, particularly those that may affect the Delta near the Mokelumne River. East Bay MUD agrees with the conclusion reached by CALFED and stakeholder biologists that the Alternative 2 with the "short canal" will most likely have unacceptable impacts on fisheries. For us, this could mean the reversal of years of progress in restoring the Mokelumne salmon run. We are committed to working with CALFED and the stakeholder community to develop other options for conveyance that will bring benefits without redirecting severe impacts.

Finally, EBMUD continues to be engaged in a legislative effort which we believe is closely related to the objectives of the CALFED program. That legislative effort is intended to improve coordination between land use planning and water supply availability. EBMUD is sponsoring legislation that would expressly require Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs) to consider whether water supplies are adequate during normal and dry water years for a water agency to serve new development, in addition to the agency's existing business and residential customers, when LAFCOs consider expanding the service area boundaries of a water agency. We strongly believe that enhancing the nexus between land use planning and water supply planning represents a common sense approach to ensuring adequate water supplies are available for existing customers, and complements CALFED's and BDAC's efforts to strengthen the reliability component of California's long-term water supply picture.

Thank you.