

98-233

September 14, 1998



Mr. Lester Snow  
Executive Director  
CALFED Bay-Delta Program  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Lester:

The various comments at the BDAC session on Friday, September 11, prompted me to write you with a few thoughts.

1. Stage I needs to include a sincere attempt at an in-Delta solution. The current efforts continue to appear to be nothing more than a "sure to fail" attempt. It is my understanding that the next scheduled public meeting on an in-Delta solution will not occur until the storage and conveyance group meets on October 20. The needs of CALFED will be well served if members of the public who are interested in an in-Delta solution are given an opportunity to have an interactive work session with the CALFED staff and participating resource agencies that are developing the storage and conveyance element of the in-Delta solution. It is important that this meeting happen quickly and that it includes the various resources, models and data which the storage and conveyance group uses in its deliberations. I am specifically referring to the need to avoid offhand general statements such as "the fish people say we can't do that" or "it won't work." I agree with Alex Hildebrand that the in-Delta solution, including water quality and fishery benefits, could be included in Stage I and is well worth pursuing, including some storage and conveyance components.
2. It may be worth your while to work with the environmental community to see if its members can support some storage component in Stage 1.
3. The placard displays of Alternates 1, 2 and 3 still do not show in-Delta or near-Delta storage and should be updated.

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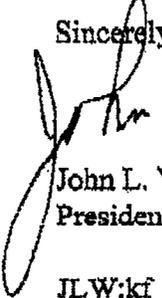
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4. The process should include a more thorough analysis of cost per acre-foot for various water storage, conveyance, conservation and reclamations project elements. The public has a right to know that their money is being spent wisely and, without some notion as to what the costs may be, there will be continued criticism in this area. Any cost per acre-foot analysis should include an estimate of the impacts of the state and federal endangered species acts.

For what it is worth, I want to personally thank you for your tireless efforts. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,



John L. Winther  
President

JLW:kf