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# California State Senate

## COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

OCT 23 1998

ROOM 2206, STATE CAPITOL  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814  
(916) 445-3284

PATRICK JOHNSTON  
CHAIRMAN



October 20, 1998

Douglas Wheeler, Secretary  
The Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Wheeler:

Tom Graff of the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) forwarded a copy of a letter (enclosed) in which the EDF had inquired of U. S. Department of Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt how much water the federal government is carrying over, or banking in storage, on behalf of fish and wildlife in the water year that has just begun.

This letter caused me to wonder whether the State of California makes any provision to carry over or bank water on behalf of the environment from year to year, especially at the end of the years with heavy rainfall and runoff, as just occurred in water year 1998.

Can you please tell me whether the state provides such a banking service? If not, do you think it would be useful to have legislation introduced authorizing water banking for the environment in the State Water Project and in local projects around the state?

Thank you for your attention to this inquiry.

Sincerely,

  
PATRICK JOHNSTON  
Senator, 5<sup>th</sup> District

PJ:bf

Enclosure