

98-382

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At our meeting with Secretary Babbitt we discussed the wording of any continuing reference to the isolated canal versus replacing such reference with assurance that substantial progress will be pursued toward fishery and water quality goals by whatever means prove to be necessary. I offer the following compromise suggestions.

- 1) Replace the paragraph in the middle of page 64 of the November Phase II Report as follows: The initial through-Delta conveyance design will be continually monitored, analyzed, and improved to optimize the potential of the through-Delta approach for meeting CALFED goals. If a diligently optimized through-Delta conveyance method still fails to meet the goals, there will be a reassessment of the cause and degree of failure and whether it is because of conveyance flows or because of exotic species, or other cause. There would then also be a determination of whether the failure can be overcome with reasonable confidence by a more drastic alteration of the method of Delta conveyance including, but not limited to an isolated canal.
- 2) If the numbered items on page 65 are left in the document they should be modified. Item 1 should provide for limiting the proportion of the exported water that may be taken through the canal at any time, and a viable method of assuring compliance. Item 3 should provide for "avoiding" not just "addressing" the seepage and flood impacts. An item 9 should be added to state that "There must be a determination that deficiencies in meeting CALFED goals are attributable to the inadequacy of the optimized through-Delta conveyance system, and that an isolated canal is the best and only reasonable measure to correct the deficiency with reasonable assurance of success and without redirected impacts".
- 3) It should be clear that the drinking water quality goals should not be based on a bromide, or other constituent concentration at the export pumps. They should be based on delivery to the water treating plants of water that is treatable at costs that are justified by avoiding the cost and redirected impacts and jeopardy to the Delta that are associated with an isolated canal.
- 4) The quality of water delivered at the treating plants may be improved by various means such as exchanges with non-potable water users; for example, by delivering Friant water or other high quality water for urban use and replacing it with exported water. However, if this is done there should be a valley drain to avoid an increase in the salt imbalance in the valley.

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