

99-49



The Bay Institute
of San Francisco

"Restoring The Bay's ecosystem ... from the Sierra to the sea."

February 25, 1999

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

Dear Lester:

I write to suggest that in the next iteration of the Phase II Report an effort be made to place the work of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program in some sort of national context. As the report now stands (December 18, 1998 version), aside from the opening quotation from Vaclav Havel on hope there is no reference whatsoever to ideas or developments outside the CALFED problem and solution areas within California.

One good way to put our work in a national context would be to refer as appropriate to "Water in the West: Challenge for the Next Century," the June 1998 report of the Western Water Policy Review Advisory Commission (WWPRAC). As you know, Congress in 1992 directed the preparation of that report because of a perception that the fragmentation of power within the federal government in regard to water resources management had contributed significantly to gridlock in decisionmaking on water. "Club Fed" and then CALFED of course are attempts to emerge from just that sort of gridlock, and in fact the WWPRAC report at page 2-37 characterizes the CALFED Bay-Delta process as an example of gridlock "apparently having been overcome." (Later, at page 3-42, our process is termed "a [m]odel" for resolving complex water disputes.)

While it is gratifying for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program to have been thus praised by the WWPRAC report, my point is that there is considerable concurrence between substantive points made by the national study of water in the West and the Phase II report. Both emphasize, for example, the following:

- 1) The need for scientific research directed to providing useful information for decisionmakers facing specific choices;
- 2) The importance of adaptive management;
- 3) The broad range of concerned stakeholders which must be included in

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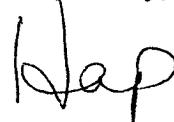
decisionmaking;

- 4) The significance of grassroots work within watersheds;
- 5) The need to restore healthy aquatic ecosystems;
- 6) The importance of ecological baselines in planning restoration programs;
- 7) The reality that ecosystem restoration must take place largely within the framework of the existing water project infrastructure;
- 8) The importance of risk management;
- 9) The significance of "sustainability" - for the WWPRAC report the most important principle of all, one paralleled by the CALFED solution principle of durability; and
- 10) The central importance of new approaches to governance.

As to governance, the WWPRAC report speaks both of "partnership federalism" and "civic governance." It says the latter, which is substantively broad but geographically situational, is "best illustrated by the growing recognition that issues of water supply, water quality, environmental restoration, and community stability must be approached in a more integrated and comprehensive manner and in a manner that respects the unique physical, political, and socioeconomic qualities of a given region" (page 3-44).

Whether the emphasis is on the WWPRAC report or on various efforts elsewhere in the country or the world which are similar to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program or on something else, I think it is important that the Phase II report place our work in some sort of larger context.

Yours sincerely,



Harrison C. Dunning