

99-179

23443 S. Hays Road
Manteca, CA 95337
June 9, 1999

Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 9th St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Lester:

My June 3 letter attached a press release by the South Delta Water Agency which focused on CALFED's violation of its declared principles, its failure to apply good science, and the serious increase in degradation that its South Delta plan would impose on the South Delta's inchannel water supply. However, the release also called attention to the potential impact of CALFED's newly adopted South Delta plan on the salinity of SWP exports. This point apparently needs explanation.

The CVP imports both water and a large tonnage of dissolved salt into the west side of the San Joaquin watershed. Several hundred thousand tons of this imported salt then drains into the San Joaquin River each year. When the tidal barrier in Grantline Canal is permitted to operate, this salt is shunted toward the Bay as it flows into the South Delta. When the Grantline barrier is not permitted, this river salt load flows through Old River and Grantline Canal to the CVP pumps. It is then re-exported. The SWP does not take water into Clifton Court during the low tide and receives very little of this river salt.

Under CALFED's newly adopted plan, the Grantline barrier would be eliminated, and the SWP would take water into Clifton Court during the low tide. It would then compete with the CVP for capture and export of this salt load. If the CVP intake is moved into Clifton Court, as tentatively proposed, the SWP will capture a majority of the salt load. Furthermore, CALFED has no plan to significantly reduce this river salt load.

CALFED held a public information meeting just before this new CALFED plan was adopted. There was no indication at that meeting that CALFED had analyzed, or even considered, this potential impact on the salinity of SWP exports. And it had been announced that no public comment would result in an alteration of the plan.

Sincerely,



Alex Hildebrand