



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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July 7, 1999

Alex Hildebrand
23443 S. Hays Road
Manteca, CA 95337

Dear Mr. Hildebrand:

In your April 11, 1999 letter, you asked two questions. You first asked about the restoration of the San Joaquin River floodplain. Its restoration is a priority for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. As you mentioned, the Paradise Cut Bypass is being considered. The Chowchilla bypass, as well as other bypasses, will also be evaluated. CALFED is working closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' San Joaquin and Sacramento River Basins Comprehensive Study, and is following their lead on developing concepts to reduce flood damage and to generate environmental benefits.

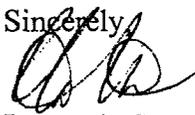
In keeping with the CALFED goal of restoring or re-creating natural river regimes, the Program is focusing on restoring or re-creating habitat on refuges and privately-managed grasslands and wetlands that can accommodate overflow floodwaters.

CALFED shares your concern that the San Joaquin system may well be over-appropriated and we acknowledge that there are few opportunities to acquire "real water." In the San Joaquin system, the Integrated Storage Investigation is investigating raising Friant Dam or constructing Montgomery Reservoir to add storage to the system. If the opportunity arises to obtain Federal water, CALFED will comply with all portions of the CVPIA, and all rights are subject to State Law and the regulations of the State Water Resources Control Board.

At least for the interim, CALFED is planning on the continued implementation of the VAMP as the means to partially restore flows in the San Joaquin River system. In addition, CALFED will evaluate the effectiveness of that program on restoring endangered and threatened fish.

Thank you for your continuing interest in CALFED. If you have any further questions, please feel free to call me at (916) 657-2666.

Sincerely,


Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

CALFED Agencies

California
The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board
Department of Food and Agriculture

Federal
Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Geological Survey
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Forest Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service
Western Area Power Administration