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Save The Bay
The Bay Institute
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association
Mono Lake Committee
California Sportfishing Protection Alliance
League of Women Voters of California

November 11, 1999

Steve Ritchie
CALFED Acting Director
1416 Ninth Street #1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: BDAC Action on CALFED Straw Governance Proposal

Dear Steve:

We write to ensure clarity regarding the views of the BDAC members representing fishing and environmental groups, as well as other EWC representatives, regarding the straw proposal on governance that was discussed at the last BDAC meeting.

We "support" the proposal for a CALFED long-term governing structure presented last week to the extent that it recommends establishment of a broad oversight entity consisting more or less of the current Policy Group members, provided an appropriate separate entity is established to manage the Ecosystem Restoration Program.

We concur that bringing the agencies together to work on the CALFED program in the Policy Group has been an extremely positive development and that some level of formalization of this structure will be important in ensuring continued focus and participation over the thirty-year life of the CALFED Program. We concur as well that the oversight entity should have some number of public representatives and incorporate the general theme of federal/state partnership.

We do not concur with, or support, a number of the key elements in the straw proposal including the proposed make up of the oversight governing board and, most critically, the specific management structure outlined in the proposal for the Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP). CALFED has not yet made a compelling case that a single Commission that performs both oversight and all program management is likely to be an effective or balanced method of ensuring achievement of the CALFED performance standards in all program areas. Open questions include:

1. How will such an agency interface with existing agencies, which will continue to have separate funding and authority for critical CALFED-related programs such as the CVP and SWP?

2. What will be the division of management-level responsibility for CALFED program objectives between existing agencies and the new agency? Many of these lines will be very fine; is reservoir X a CALFED project or a pre-CALFED project and so outside of the Commission's authority?

3. What is the most effective way to achieve the ERP standards? We support the consideration of a restoration entity focused on achievement of the performance standards and accountable to the CALFED oversight structure.

We hope this has clarified our position on the straw proposal. We are very pleased that this issue has now been elevated in CALFED. We have no illusions about the difficulties of establishing a structure that will have longevity and be successful in its mission. We look forward to working with you and the Policy Group to develop a proposal that garners broad support.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Raab

Cynthia Koehler

Bob Raab/Cynthia Koehler
Save The Bay

Hap Dunning

Hap Dunning
The Bay Institute

Zeke Grader

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Frances Spivy-Weber

Frances Spivy-Weber
Mono Lake Committee

Richard Izmirian

Richard Izmirian
California Sportfishing
Protection Alliance

Roberta Borgonovo

Roberta Borgonovo
League of Women Voters
of California

cc: CALFED Policy Group
BDAC Members