



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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November 30, 1999

Alex Hildebrand
South Delta Water Agency
23443 South Hays Road
Manteca, CA 95337

Dear Mr. Hildebrand:

In both your August 27, and September 26 letters to me, you raised a series of technical questions and concerns pertaining to the evaluation of South Delta solution alternatives.

CALFED and its participating agencies are committed to conducting a thorough and impartial evaluation of all reasonable alternatives for the South Delta region and welcome your participation, and that of other stakeholders, in that process. The evaluation will be documented as part of the South Delta Improvements environmental documentation, which will be tiered off the CALFED Programmatic EIR/EIS.

As you are aware, we have conducted period public workshops to inform the interested public and receive comments on CALFED's South Delta planning process. These meetings were held on March 5, April 2, April 30, May 28, and September 22. The next meeting will be on December 9, 1:00 P. M. at the Tracy Community Center. In addition, we have begun to conduct a series of meetings with you and other South Delta Water Agency representatives to formulate, discuss, and review technical analyses (especially modeling of hydrodynamics, water quality and project operations). The first two of these meetings were held on October 12 and November 16; the next meeting will be held on December 13.

The model development and model studies currently underway are planned and designed to resolve the questions you have raised in your letters, as well as complete the feasibility and impact evaluations required to complete the project planning process. I propose to address the questions you have raised through the technical evaluations and the coordination process we have underway, rather than write detailed technical responses to the questions you posed in your letters.

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

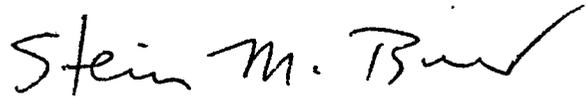


Alex Hildebrand
November 30, 1999
Page 2

I look forward to working with you, the CALFED agencies, and other stakeholders to successfully resolve the water management and ecological concerns surrounding the South Delta region.

Please feel free to call me if you have questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stein M. Buer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a checkmark at the end.

Stein M. Buer, Assistant Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

cc: Michael Machado
Margit Aramburu
Tom Zuckerman
Patrick Wright
Kathy Kelli
Mike Ford
Steve Roberts
SDIT Members