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Manteca, CA 95337  
October 30, 1999

Steve Ritchie  
CALFED Bay-Delta Program  
1416 9th Street, Suite 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Steve:

I am writing to reiterate and further explain my request for an early BDAC agenda item on the consequences of California's continuing dependence on overdrafting groundwater. The welfare of California has become significantly dependent on an ongoing depletion of its natural resources. This resource depletion is unsustainable and includes the overdraft of groundwater.

During droughts we overdraft groundwater by many millions of acre feet which are then only partially replaced in wet years. When we lose the ability to overdraft during droughts there will be a big impact on life style, jobs, food supply, environment, etc. Furthermore, our dependance on overdraft is increasing as the population grows, as we increase allocation of "firm" water supplies for refuges, minimum stream flow, and cities, and as we lose "elasticity" in water use by shifting the perennial crops and demanding ever-increasing water utilization efficiency. The overdraft also causes water quality problems.

We were informed at our October BDAC meeting that this concern is not now being addressed by the Water Management Team or any other CALFED team. I, therefore, requested that BDAC have a presentation and discussion of the long term effect of this overdraft on CALFED's long term goals. I understood that Vice Chair McPeak endorsed this request.

Sincerely,



Alex Hildebrand

cc Secretary Mary Nichols