

WOODBIDGE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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October 21, 1999

Mr. Carl L. Werder
CALFED Project Manager
2800 Cottage Way MP 190 Rm. E-2710
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

Re: Cooperative Agreement 1425-98-FC-20-16650

Dear Mr. Werder:

We are in receipt of your October 15, 1999 letter requesting information regarding the completion of work under the Cooperative Agreement 1425-98-FC-20-16650 between the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and Woodbridge Irrigation District (WID). This is to advise you that due to circumstances beyond the control of Woodbridge Irrigation District the District is unable to meet the December 31, 1999 completion date set forth in Paragraph B-1 of the Agreement. Accordingly, WID hereby requests an appropriate extension of time within which to complete the portion of the project which has been funded.

The reasons for this request are as follows:

The April 13, 1998 letter from CALFED to WID, a copy of which is enclosed herewith, advised that the project had been approved subject to several conditions among which was the condition that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish & Game would act as co-lead agencies under NEPA and CEQA respectively to insure that a full range of alternatives were evaluated during the environmental process.

Paragraph A.6. of the Agreement under Environmental Clearance and Permitting requires that:

“A Joint National Environmental Policy Act/California Environmental Quality Act (NEPA/CEQA) document covering the entire plan will be prepared. “An analysis and evaluation of all known project alternatives will be completed as a first step in the environmental clearance process and will be CEQA and NEPA compliant”.

Preparation of the required “Alternative Analysis” included participation by USFWS, NMFS, CDFG, WID, City of Lodi and EBMUD. The results of this analysis were set forth in an

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Alternatives Assessment Report dated January 6, 1999, a copy of which was forwarded to Liz Howard at the USBR. Since the alternatives considered included a number of different structure configurations and locations it has not been possible to begin engineering designs pending completion of the analysis and selection of the preferred alternative.

We have now completed a Draft EIR/EIS which is awaiting signature by the Regional Director of the USBR to begin the public review period. We anticipate that engineering design of the preferred alternative will begin some time in February, 2000. Once engineering work begins we estimate that 450 working days will be required to produce a set of Approved Plans and Specifications. The 450 days include 170 working days estimated to be required for review by the appropriate fish and wildlife agencies as well as the Corps of Engineers and the California Department of Water Resources Division of Safety of Dams.

We therefore request that the "Cooperative Agreement" be amended to allow WID an extension of time of 450 working days to begin upon completion of the NEPA/CEQA process as required by law.

Very truly yours,



Anders Christensen, General Manager
Woodbridge Irrigation District

enc: Alternatives Report
April 13, 1998 CALFED Letter

WID8.114