

# Santa Clara Valley Water District



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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

January 18, 2000

Honorable Bruce Babbitt, Secretary  
United States Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N. W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Babbitt:

Thank you for your invitation to meet last week and for providing us with the opportunity to share perspectives and to explain some of our key interests in the development of a successful CALFED program. It is the initiation and continuation of the dialogue begun on Thursday that will contribute greatly to the likelihood of success of this most important effort.

Moreover, our CVP contract concerns need to be resolved irrespective of the ongoing CALFED program. As we discussed, there are some fundamental principles in play that could significantly impact our ability to serve Silicon Valley with the level of certainty it has come to expect.

I believe that only your leadership, in tandem with that of Governor Davis, can salvage a CALFED program that has drifted from its focus on maintaining a balanced program for the near and long-term future, as well as a balanced regulatory regime in the present. I am confident that the stakes for California's continued economic and environmental vitality are so obvious that an implosion of CALFED simply is not an option that you nor the Governor would be willing to tolerate.

We at the Santa Clara Valley Water District want to stand with you as we build that pathway to progress we spoke about in support of a balanced CALFED program that continues the investments in ecosystem restoration, but also begins the harder tasks of developing *and implementing* real programs in continuous water quality improvement and water supply reliability enhancement. Increased storage, an enhanced watershed management component, and keeping all options on the table for future infrastructure improvements should the optimization of the "through-Delta" alternative prove unsatisfactory, are key elements of what we believe would be a CALFED Program Plan worthy of continued support by ourselves and the Silicon Valley communities and businesses we represent and serve

Sitting across the table, I hope it was clear we sincerely believe that a reasonable, balanced and effective solution can be achieved with some meaningful course corrections. Ultimately, we in Silicon Valley are concerned about what's best for California; thus, we do not accept that our



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interests can be adequately served without addressing the needs of all regions of the State, from the Klamath and Trinity to the Colorado. We are integrated into a system that is on the brink of collapse. CALFED was supposed to pull us back from the brink; today, it's sliding toward the abyss itself.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, thank you again for taking a personal interest in trying to ensure CALFED's success. We are very pleased and encouraged that serious discussions are underway between you and your team and representatives of the Davis administration. We stand ready to partner with you and the Governor in that effort.

Sincerely,

Gregory A. Zlotnick  
Chair/Board of Directors

cc: Honorable Gray Davis  
Governor of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

bcc: Honorable Barbara Boxer  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
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Honorable Zoe Lofgren  
U. S. House of Representatives  
118 Cannon House Office Building  
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Honorable Tom Campbell  
U. S. House of Representatives  
2221 Rayburn House Office Building  
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Honorable Anna Eshoo  
U. S. House of Representatives  
308 Cannon House Office Building  
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Honorable Fortney "Pete" Stark  
U. S. House of Representatives  
239 Cannon House Office Building  
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Honorable Elaine Alquist  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 3120  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Jim Cuneen  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 2174  
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