



UNITED FARM WORKERS of AMERICA, AFL-CIO
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

March 23, 2000

2546 Campden Way
 Sacramento, CA 95833

Eugenia Laychak
 BDAC Coordinator
 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Eugenia,

RE: BDAC comments on the Preferred Program Alternative

Stakeholder Involvement:

The UPW supports Alex Hildebrand's idea to have a preamble with the inclusion that CALFED consider the potential environmental justice impacts of their actions in assessing any program element, from restoration projects to the continuous analysis of the water management program. In order to ensure that such impacts will be examined, effective assurances are needed for public and stakeholder involvement in the planning and implementation of projects.

The CALFED Commission should strive to retain a transparent governance and decision-making process. From the Environmental Restoration Program to the Water Transfers Program, all program elements should maintain a transparency by requiring that the results of their pilot projects and other implementations be completely public information.

The Commission should be able to fully prioritize and define the cumulative impacts within the different geographic areas through the involvement of "Local Workgroups". These Workgroups bring the greatest potential for efficient public participation and the review of cumulative project impacts. Furthermore, public participation can be greatly increased through continuous public notifications to local governments as well as public notices made in the main ethnic language of the surrounding community (Spanish, Vietnamese, etc.).

When different water needs are being defined, they are usually limited to urban, agricultural and environmental concerns. This is a major weakness in the Preferred Program Alternative, because it looks at how agriculture will gain or lose from a project or program decision, instead of looking at how *rural communities*, as a whole will be impacted by a project or program. Every program, including the Water Management Evaluation Strategy, must review the socio-economic impacts that each project will have on the community, especially when a change in land-use or land fallowing is required

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from the project. The two greatest indicators of community impacts, changes in employment and changes local tax-base, should always be factors in the decision-making process. Furthermore, displaced workers and other local workers should receive priority for the new jobs that are created from these projects.

Demand-Side Solutions:

Stopping groundwater overdraft across the state is an integral part to resolving Safe Drinking Water Quality and Storage problems in the Delta and for all of California. Alternative Sources of water should include the demand-side on Delta. Implementing groundwater monitoring, expanding agricultural and urban BMPs, and restoring and replacing faulty infrastructure (pipelines, wells) across those Delta-demanders south of the Delta, will reduce the groundwater overdraft problems in their respective areas thereby allowing for a decrease in their demand for surface water coming from the aqueduct(s). A more secure and safe supply of groundwater will reduce the substitutive demand on Delta water, thereby increasing in-Delta quality and overall supply.

Good luck with the compilation of all our commentaries!

Thank you,

Martha Guzman

Legislative Analyst

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