



CENTRAL CALIFORNIA AGENCY POLICY COMMITTEE

1824 Tribute Road, Suite J, Sacramento, California 95815-4308

February 22, 2000

Steven Ritchie, Executive Director
Cal Fed Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Statement of Support for Tribes on the proposed CALFED Commission

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

The CALFED Bay Delta-Program will have the ability to implement a long-term ecosystem restoration plan and oversight of many aspects of water management. The coordination of resource managers in the program area is supportive of implementation goals. The Mission statement of the program requires that solutions will solve problems in all problem areas. This may result in the limitation of Tribes in the advancement of their environmental goals if not linked with the goals of the program. Tribes believe it is imperative to have self-determination of their communities' future, including the protection and management of their reserved rights through representation of Tribes on the proposed new CALFED Commission.

The potential that federal funded resource management activities within the solution area will require the approval of an oversight body of the CALFED Bay Delta Program justifies the inclusion of Tribal Leadership or their designees. Representation of Tribes from the diverse geographic areas will be needed to enable effective participation of Tribal Leadership. It is the recommendation of the Central California Agency (CCA) Policy Committee that representation of Tribes from the CCA be included on the oversight body of the CALFED Bay Delta Program. Other regions corresponding with Bureau of Indian Affairs agency areas, the Northern California Agency and the Southern California Agency, should select their representation according to their own internal mechanisms. One representative for all the Tribes is not adequate and may result in reluctance of Tribal Leaders in participating with program activities.

The CCA Policy Committee may be contacted to consult on program activities. The Native Americans of the Tribes of these regions are culturally linked with the lands and waters and may provide insight and knowledge of our world. We recommend that affirmative steps be taken to ensure that all affected tribes are represented on the proposed CALFED Commission.

Sincerely,

Leslie Miller, Chairman
Central California Agency Policy Committee

cc: William J. Clinton, President of the United States
Gray Davis, Governor of the State of California
Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior
David Hayes, Counselor to the Secretary
George Miller, Congressman

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