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ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE

finding the ways that work

May 1, 2000

Walter J. Bishop  
Contra Costa Water District  
1331 Concord Avenue  
Concord, CA 94524

Dear Wally:

Thank you for your letter of April 27 regarding CCWD's positions.

Your letter states that you were surprised by "the level of misrepresentation" in an April 21<sup>st</sup> letter of mine to Deputy Secretary Hayes, yet it provides few specifics as to what you think was actually misrepresented. I stand by my representation that an enlarged Los Vaqueros and a peripheral canal (which I would define as any facility that bypasses the Delta pool or is constructed on an alignment which would enable it to bypass the Delta pool when extended) are closely linked and am aware that you have CCWD and CALFED documents making this connection.

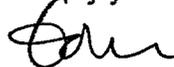
What your April 27 letter does that is constructive, however, is to state a number of positions of CCWD's. Many of these positions are steps in the right direction, most notably the opposition to a Hood diversion. Having these positions collected in one place is a positive and helpful development and I appreciate your providing them to Environmental Defense in this form.

Our next task should be to expand the family of Bay Area urban water agencies who endorse many of these same positions. This will not be an easy sell. I am enclosing a document which I understand to be the handout which many of these agencies provided to Senator Feinstein at a recent meeting. You will recognize more than a few inconsistencies between this handout and your letter. A Hood facility (that is where the infamous peripheral canal of 1982 vintage began) is mentioned; the American River (but not its proposed peripheral canal) gets four mentions; a new Tuolumne diversion (requiring still another peripheral canal) is thrown in for good measure. I recognize the handout states that "only a subset" of the projects it recommends "should be implemented". With that sentiment I wholeheartedly agree.

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There are actions mentioned in the handout that can and should be taken and which improve the environment, water quality and water supply reliability. Let's work on those together and stop promoting unnecessary storage and conveyance projects.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas J. Graff  
Senior Attorney

TG/hbr  
enclosure

cc: Hon. David Hayes  
Hon. Barbara Boxer  
Hon. George Miller  
Felicia Marcus  
Mike Madigan  
Sunne McPeak