

**CONTRA COSTA
WATER DISTRICT**

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April 27, 2000

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Mr. Thomas J. Graff
Senior Attorney
Environmental Defense
5655 College Avenue
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Subject: Environmental Defense Letter to Deputy Secretary Hayes

Dear Tom:

I was surprised by the level of misrepresentation, in your April 21, 2000 letter to Deputy Secretary Hayes, of what had occurred at the meeting in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Regional Director Felicia Marcus' office on April 20 with environmental stakeholders. The purpose of the meeting was to explain to key environmental stakeholders where Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) stood with respect to the CALFED Record of Decision negotiations, and to discuss any stakeholder concerns and issues regarding potential CALFED alternatives involving CCWD facilities.

We thought we had made the following points clear:

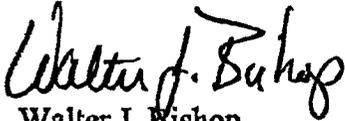
- CCWD has a long history of opposition to the Peripheral Canal, and CCWD continues as Board policy to oppose it.
- CCWD has not taken a position on an expansion of Los Vaqueros Reservoir, and any such expansion must meet CCWD's principles (attached).
- Any such expansion must be for Delta improvements and water quality, not supply.
- The CCWD Board of Directors' adopted policy is to require a vote on any expansion of Los Vaqueros. CALFED is not considering a Peripheral Canal as part of Stage 1 (first 7 years). As a member of the CALFED Bay-Delta Advisory Committee you most certainly know this. Linking the Canal with any studies that CALFED is doing on future reservoirs in Stage 1 seriously misrepresents CALFED's current direction.
- Any plans for expansion of Los Vaqueros for water quality have to be weighed against water treatment options and cost.
- CCWD is supporting Central Delta intakes for improved flexibility and not a Hood diversion.

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Each of these issues was carefully reviewed at the meeting on April 20 and the six representatives of the environmental stakeholder groups asked detailed questions for clarity. Several attendees at the meeting have scheduled follow up meetings to better understand the District's positions.

We did not expect you to agree with all of our positions, but your characterization of where Contra Costa Water District stands with respect to these issues and the association of Los Vaqueros Reservoir alternatives with a Peripheral Canal is not credible. Since your letter presented opinions on what Mike Madigan and Sunne McPeak were saying, but did not copy them, I have taken the liberty to do so.

Sincerely,



Walter J. Bishop
General Manager

WJB/GG/ce

Attachments

cc: Honorable David Hayes
Honorable Barbara Boxer
Honorable George Miller
Felicia Marcus (USEPA)
Mike Madigan
Sunne McPeak