

**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, California 95814

(916) 657-2666
FAX **(916) 654-9780**

February 1, 2000

Mike Madigan
California Water Commission
202 C Street, 11th Floor
San Diego, CA 92010

Sunne-Wright McPeak
The Bay Area Council
200 Pine Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94104

Dear Mike and Sunne,

December 10, 1999 CALFED Governance Memo

I wanted to respond to your letter of December 10, 1999, in which you raised issues to address in creating a long-term governing entity for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. I appreciate your interest and continued involvement in resolving these issues.

The CALFED agencies agree that a new CALFED governing structure must be represented by the highest level of agency leadership. The CALFED staff proposal (December 10, 1999) identifies state agency secretary and directors, and federal agency regional director level representatives as the appropriate level of agency representation to oversee implementation. In addition, in crafting the proposal, staff has been mindful to focus the responsibilities of the commissioners in order to assure the wise allocation of their time.

The proposed governing structure would not, however, alter any agency's regulatory authority. Through high level agency participation, and coordination of programs at all levels, much of the regulatory uncertainty of the past decade should be eased. For example, CALFED is working with the fish and wildlife agencies on endangered species issues to assure that the long-term plan addresses needs of species and identifies processes to be used to obtain and take authorization when implementing a specific CALFED action.

CALFED Agencies

California	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Resources Agency Department of Fish and Game Department of Water Resources California Environmental Protection Agency State Water Resources Control Board Department of Food and Agriculture 	Federal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Protection Agency Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service Bureau of Reclamation U.S. Geological Survey Bureau of Land Management U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service U.S. Forest Service Department of Commerce National Marine Fisheries Service Western Area Power Administration
-------------------	---	----------------	--	--

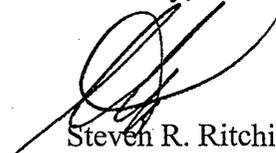
Mike Madigan, et al
February 1, 2000
Page 2

The governance proposal builds meaningful, timely stakeholder involvement at every level of program implementation. Some of the options include ways for stakeholders to be members of the commission, to create or continue a public advisory committee, or otherwise gain their input, and so on. CALFED staff will consider the approaches you suggest in your letter when the proposal delves into detailed discussions of which approaches to recommend and how stakeholders can participate.

Finally, I agree that a strong link to the State legislature and Congress are essential for assuring effective implementation of the plan. CALFED staff has explored how, for example, legislators are included in the Chesapeake Bay governance. A separate committee or outreach effort may be necessary to tailor a process to the needs of legislators and their staffs and to avoid any confusion over authority and responsibilities.

We are continuing to discuss these ideas and appreciate your suggestions.

Sincerely,



Steven R. Ritchie
Acting Executive Director

cc: BDAC
Policy Group