



The Bay Institute
of San Francisco

***** MEMORANDUM *****

October 22, 1997

TO: Mary Selkirk, Rick Soehren

FR: Gary Bobker

RE: BDAC Water Transfers Workgroup

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend today's workgroup meeting. However, I wanted to make you and the workgroup aware of a major concern I have with the workgroup's activities to date, based on the minutes and materials circulated.

In brief, the workgroup seems to be exclusively focused on transfers for consumptive use, and on the third-party and environmental impacts associated with such transfers. What appears to be completely overlooked is the need for transfers to enhance instream uses. Since environmental water acquisitions will be a key component of any comprehensive ecosystem restoration program, this strikes me as a serious omission.

I am therefore requesting that the CALFED Program and the workgroup do the following:

1. Include water transfers for instream flow purposes within the charge of the workgroup, as a type of transfer to be considered on a par with other water transfers.
2. Prepare a briefing paper on the use of water transfers to achieve instream flow improvements, which focuses particularly on mechanisms for permanent and long-term acquisitions of water for the environment, and identifies barriers to environmental acquisitions.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please circulate this memo at today's meeting if possible.