



Community
Alliance with
Family
Farmers
foundation

Mr. Lester Snow
Executive Director
CalFed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Ste. 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow,

We are writing to express our concern about the membership and the selection process for the CalFed Bay-Delta Program Ecosystem Roundtable. As a subcommittee of BDAC charged with oversight of the "strategic and practical issues necessary for effective habitat restoration," the Roundtable should include representation from groups and individuals who have on-the-ground experience with environmental restoration. The Roundtable should also include non-affiliated citizen representation from communities that may be affected by restoration projects (such as Delta communities) and at-large representation by informed and interested individuals who do not have professional ties to the water community.

The current membership of the Ecosystem Roundtable is overwhelmingly composed of a familiar list of water interest group professionals. The groups represented have a legitimate interest in ecosystem issues, and the individual members have a great deal of knowledge and experience in many areas of water policy. However, they are not the only and certainly not the most qualified stakeholders with an interest in advising CalFed on long-term ecosystem restoration.

As currently proposed, the Ecosystem Roundtable contains only a narrow spectrum of viewpoints and limited on-the-ground expertise. It does not appear that many of the members have hands-on experience with ecosystem restoration projects. Such experience will be crucial for this body to make informed judgments on projects and priorities. We have suggested several individuals involved in sustainable agriculture and others working in resource and habitat restoration.

Although we have no idea of how membership decisions for the Roundtable were made, the list of members suggests that having a balance of powerful water interest groups was the primary goal. It does not appear that any effort

was made either to have an open, broadly representative selection process, or to reach out to experienced, non-traditional stakeholders. We are disturbed that a body charged to advise on both funding and restoration priorities was apparently so narrowly conceived.

To help protect the credibility of the program, we suggest that representatives with experience in sustainable agriculture and individuals with on-the-ground experience in ecosystem restoration be included at the table.

Sincerely,



Judith Redmond
Executive Director

Community Alliance with Family Farmers Foundation

cc: Michael D. Madigan

This has not gone well!