

October 7, 1998

Mike Madigan, Chair
Bay-Delta Advisory Council
c/o CALFED Bay-Delta Program
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Lester Snow, Executive Director
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Gentlemen,

As co-chairs of the Ecosystem Roundtable, a subgroup of the Bay-Delta Advisory Council (BDAC) which advises the state and federal governments on expenditure of ecosystem restoration funds, we and our colleagues have often expressed concerns regarding the need for a sound, comprehensive planning framework to guide our process. The most positive step toward providing such a framework, both for our work and the longer-term CALFED process, has been the recent effort to develop a Strategic Plan for the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program. The Strategic Plan attempts to construct a framework for adaptive ecosystem management, which identifies: clear, measurable goals and objectives; hypotheses regarding alternative approaches for achieving these objectives; an initial implementation strategy; criteria for monitoring and performance assessment; and a process for revising the implementation strategy over time.

It is our observation that the Ecosystem Restoration Program is far in advance of the other CALFED program areas in this regard, and that the adaptive management approach should be applied to all aspects of the long-term solution. We strongly recommend to the BDAC and to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program that strategic plans be prepared for water supply reliability, water quality, system vulnerability, and other areas as appropriate.

Sincerely,



Gary Bobker
Co-Chair



Jason Peltier
Co-Chair



Greg Gartrell
Co-Chair

cc: CALFED Policy Group
Ecosystem Roundtable