



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southwest Region
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200
Long Beach, California 90802-4213

OCT 4 1999

F/SW03:GRS

Lester Snow
Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. *Lester* Snow:

In response to your request for comments on the CALFED Program FY 2000 Ecosystem Restoration Spending Priorities, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) respectfully requests the addition of fish screens to this list. The installation of state-of-the-art fish screens on water diversions throughout the Central Valley is a top priority of the NMFS for the protection and recovery of listed and candidate anadromous salmonids. Several other Central Valley programs including the Central Valley Project Improvement Act's Anadromous Fish Restoration Program (AFRP), the California Department of Fish and Game's Unscreened Diversion Program, the Natural Resource Conservation Service's Fish Screen Program, and CALFED's Ecosystem Restoration Plan (ERP) have also assigned top priority to the installation of fish screens. State-of-the art fish screens allow for the multiple use of water while providing protection from entrainment to all life stages of salmon and steelhead.

I recognize that CALFED in coordination with the AFRP has successfully installed new fish screens at several important sites in the Central Valley. However, as you well know, thousands of unscreened water diversions continue to operate in the Sacramento River Basin, the San Joaquin River Basin, and Delta. To meet the CALFED ERP Stage 1 expectations for fish screens (i.e. screen all diversions greater than 250 cfs and majority of diversions between 100 and 250 cfs), I recommend fish screens remain a top CALFED ecosystem restoration priority for FY 2000.

If you have questions concerning these comments, please contact me at 562-980-4015 or Mr. Gary Stern at (707) 575-6060.

Sincerely,


James H. Lecky
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Protected Resources

cc: CALFED Small Group

