



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
California/Nevada Operations Office
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-2606
Sacramento, California 95825-0509

IN REPLY REFER TO:

LA-California
CALFED
San Joaquin River NWR
Flood plain.

MAR 22 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie
Acting Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Amendment to Agreement No. 1425-98-AA-20-16180 San Joaquin River NWR Flood plain, CALFED Tracking No. 97-B04

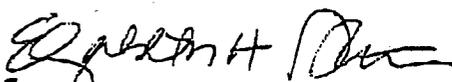
Dear Mr. Ritchie:

In July, 1999, the CALFED Policy Team (Team) approved an amendment to the above referenced grant for the acquisition, long term preservation and protection, and restoration of approximately 6,169 acres by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). The July amendment allowed the Service to acquire either the fee or easement interests in the Riley Slough Flood plain corridor under Task C, provided an additional \$300,000 to cover costs associated with the acquisitions identified within the original grant, and extended the initial completion date until March 31, 2000. This is to request CALFED's approval of an amendment to extend the completion date to March 31, 2001.

The initial grant identified six (6) tasks, A-F. To date, the Service has completed Task A and is in the process of completing Tasks B-E. The extension will allow the Service sufficient time to finalize the appraisal process and acquire the properties. Development of the conservation easement provisions that are acceptable to the Service and the landowners has caused unanticipated delays. Negotiations with the landowners are moving forward, and we anticipate having the appraisals completed and offers made by the end of June, 2000. All parties involved with these acquisitions are committed to the successful protection of this wildlife habitat. The consequence of CALFED not granting this extension would be that approximately 6,169 acres of riparian, grassland and wetland habitats would not be permanently protect and restored.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Howard K. Stark or Stephen M. Dyer at the above address or at (916) 414-6446.

Sincerely,


Acting Manager
Elizabeth H. Stevens