

Mr. Lester A. Snow  
Executive Director  
CALFED Bay-Delta Program  
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1155  
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: **1999 Operations Plan Update**

Dear Mr. Snow:

This letter provides an update on the 1999 Operations Plan (Plan) developed by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) within the parameters of the Accord<sup>1</sup>. Under the Plan, pumping is reduced about 86,000 acre-feet in April and May for delta smelt. This will result in higher pumping in January to offset the earlier reductions. In addition to utilizing operational flexibility for the State Water Project, joint point of diversion authorization<sup>2</sup> is needed for Reclamation to recover water for the Central Valley Project.

The Plan was presented at the April 21, 1999, meeting of the CALFED Ops Group, where it was decided to have the No Name Group (NNG) review the Plan. During an April 23, 1999 teleconference, the NNG discussed various alternatives, including the Plan, for water supply recovery. Among other things, the NNG expressed concern that the Plan required increased exports in the winter when added protection for endangered and threatened species, including outmigrating spring and winter-run chinook, will likely be needed. Reclamation and DWR will work through the Ops Group to coordinate makeup operations in an effort to minimize fishery impacts.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call Stephen Kashiwada at (916) 653-7092 or Lowell Ploss at (916) 979-2180.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Kashiwada  
Co-chair CALFED Ops Group

Lowell F. Ploss  
Co-chair CALFED Ops Group

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<sup>1</sup>The ESA Flexibility section of the Accord contains two key provisions for managing operations for threatened or endangered species. The first provision states that operational changes due to incidental take is intended to result in no additional water costs. The second provision states that decisions on operational flexibility under the Ops Group process may result in an increase or decrease to water supplies in any month and must be based on best available data to ensure biological protections.

<sup>2</sup>On April 30, 1999, Reclamation sent a letter to the State Water Resources Control Board requesting the use of joint point of diversion for the months of June 1999 to March 2000.