

DON YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Resources
Washington, DC 20515

August 16, 1999

The Honorable Bruce Babbitt
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write to request information regarding the authorities under which Interior intends to pursue its responsibilities for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. As you know, in 1996 Congress passed the California Bay-Delta Environmental Enhancement and Water Security Act, which has been integral to the CALFED program. The Act authorized \$430 million over three years of which \$160 million has been appropriated. The Senate bill includes an additional \$50 million for FY 2000, the last year of the authorization. The House bill includes \$75 million for CALFED.

The Water and Power Subcommittee of the House Resources Committee has jurisdiction over this authorization and has held several oversight hearings on CALFED, the latest of which you appeared at to testify. The Subcommittee has been asked to consider extending the authorization for an additional fiscal year, which will roughly coincide with the announced schedule for completion of a final EIR/EIS and Record of Decision. Subcommittee staff have met with State officials, stakeholders, and representatives of your department in order to evaluate whether and how the authorization should be extended.

The meetings with CALFED officials have focused on the activities they expect to undertake during fiscal year 2001. CALFED has provided us with a preliminary list of those activities which focuses on ecosystem restoration, water management improvements, and an integrated storage investigation.

Of particular concern to the committee in considering the extension is the issue of the authorities under which Interior is expending federal funds on CALFED. It is our understanding that Interior is using both the Bay-Delta Environmental Enhancement and Water Security Act of 1996 as well as other existing authorities to expend funds for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program in fiscal year 2000. In order

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for the Subcommittee to determine how to proceed in extending the CALFED authorization, we ask that you provide us answers to the following questions:

1. What are the existing authorities, other than the Bay-Delta Environmental Enhancement and Water Security Act of 1996, which Interior is using to provide funds for its share of CALFED activities in FY 2000?
2. Will these authorities provide for the anticipated range of activities that CALFED will pursue in FY 2001?
3. If not, what additional authorities may be needed?

We appreciate the assurances we have received from you and your staff that the Department will continue to cooperate closely with this Subcommittee in considering any authorization extension which, when combined with other existing authorities if necessary, would provide the funding necessary to carry out the range of activities anticipated by CALFED in FY 2001.

We are sure you know that time is of the essence in this request and that a prompt response is important. We therefore request that you provide answers to these questions no later than August 27, 1999.

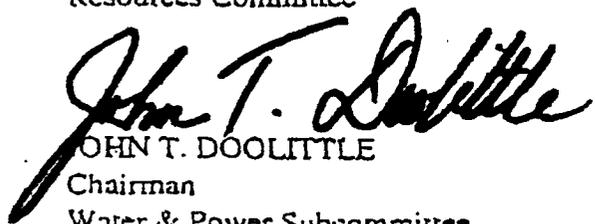
Sincerely,



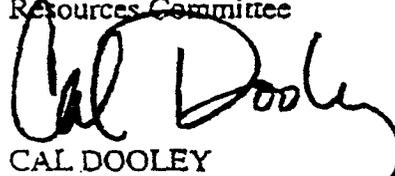
DON YOUNG
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GEORGE MILLER
Ranking Member
Resources Committee



JOHN T. DOOLITTLE
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Water & Power Subcommittee



CAL DOOLEY
Ranking Member
Water & Power Subcommittee