



# EDF NEWS RELEASE

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## EDF SUPPORTS SAN FRANCISCO BAY/DELTA WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

(15 Dec., 1994 -- Oakland, CA) The Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) today expressed support for new water quality standards and Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance provisions for the troubled San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary. The joint announcement was made today by the Federal Ecosystem Directorate, a consortium of federal agencies working on Bay-Delta and ESA issues, and by the state of California.

"Finally, we've had a breakthrough in what seemed like an eternal struggle over the Bay-Delta. After 16 years of delay, we have a more protective set of standards agreed upon by nearly all parties involved," said John Krautkraemer, EDF's lead attorney in the long battle for both federal and state Bay-Delta protection.

Tom Graff, an EDF attorney who worked with Krautkraemer in helping to bring various parties together over the last several weeks, praised both administrations involved.

"President Clinton and Governor Wilson deserve equal credit for setting aside their political differences to embrace this agreement," said Graff.

"This announcement is not so much the end of a process, but the beginning," said Krautkraemer. "All parties involved, state and federal, urban, agricultural and environmental, must commit to making these standards work. Years of state inaction left several species like the Delta smelt and winter-run salmon at the brink of extinction. We have to make up for a lot of lost time."

The Environmental Defense Fund, a leading, national nonprofit organization, represents 250,000 members. EDF links science, economics, and law to create innovative, economically viable solutions to today's environmental problems.

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