



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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March 8, 1996

Mr. Don Bransford
P.O. Box 809
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Dear ^{Don} ~~Mr.~~ Bransford:

Thank you for your letter of February 15 with suggestions for core action criteria and your suggestion that our alternatives include off-stream storage and be consistent with existing restoration efforts and agricultural activities.

Core actions are specific activities that would be included as an element of each Program alternative. Core actions must, among other things, be broadly supported by stakeholders. They cannot increase the level of conflict between Bay-Delta beneficial uses or among stakeholders. Any action that is at odds with the existing water rights system would be inconsistent with these provisions, and will not be included as a proposed core action.

Additionally, Program alternatives will be carefully crafted to meet the mission, objectives, and solution principles articulated by the CALFED agencies and BDAC. These principles require an equitable solution that meets the Program objectives without transferring impacts elsewhere. The entire CALFED Bay-Delta Program long-term planning process is based upon developing a broadly accepted solution package in a process open to the water users, environmentalists and public-at-large. The existing water rights system including of area of origin protection will be part of the analysis of any and all alternatives.

Regarding the alternatives, we attempted to develop alternatives which are fully compatible with existing programs benefit fish and wildlife. Additionally, off-stream storage could certainly be possible as part of the final solution and is currently part of several of the draft alternatives. Also, the level of detail for alternatives during Phase I of the Program make it difficult to determine precisely which on-going programs might be impacted or enhanced by eventual actions. Your comments highlight the need to keep these issues identified as detail is increased in Phase II. However, the level of detail at this time, address general locations of storage (e.g. North of Delta) and not specific sites. Please give me a call if you would like to get together and address these issues in more detail.

Sincerely,

Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Commerce

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