



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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April 11, 1996

Pietro Parravano, President
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations
P. O. Box 340
El Granada, CA 94018

Dear Pietro:

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify Dick Daniel's response to your comments at the recent Bay-Delta Advisory Council meeting. Our objective is to "improve and increase aquatic and terrestrial habitats and improve ecological functions in the Bay-Delta to support sustainable populations of diverse and valuable plant and animal species."

To achieve this broad objective we are focusing on reducing or eliminating factors which degrade habitat, impair ecological functions, or reduce the population size or health of species. In this regard, we do not differ from the objective of the Central Valley Improvement Act, Anadromous Fisheries Recovery Plan or the Central Valley Action Plan of the Department of Fish and Game. As we have stated, we consider the objectives and actions of those plans to be integral to our Program. Because our Program is much broader--Ecosystem Restoration--we have to develop indicators of progress or success which are focused on the health and integrity of the system as a whole. We are emphasizing the restoration of a balance among habitat types and ecological functions throughout the system.

We do not consider our broader emphasis to be at odds with the mandate of the CVPIA or the goals of the Salmon, Steelhead Trout and Anadromous Fisheries Program Act. In the longer term we believe that restoration of habitat and ecosystem function will result in robust and resilient populations of all desirable fish species dependent on the Bay-Delta System. It may well result in some races or populations which exceed the CVPIA mandate to double or the state goal to double 1988 populations. In a number of cases the degradation of habitat and the loss of a given stream's ability to support and produce anadromous salmonids predates the boundary dates provided in the legislation. We may be able to effect improvements which more than double a given population. In other cases, particularly with regard to steelhead trout, the ability of a stream with a large dam which blocks access to critical headwaters to recover its productive capacity may be forever lost. We suggest it is

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
National Marine Fisheries Service

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most prudent and productive to follow an approach which emphasizes habitat restoration and ecosystem function rather than to set specific numerical goals for particular species.

Your comment regarding one core action regulating improving the information base used to regulate harvest is correct. We do not intend to single out any particular aspect of consumptive use. We consider all forms of legal consumptive use to be legitimate. We will make a clarifying correction.

Thank you for your comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lester A. Snow', written in a cursive style.

Lester A. Snow
Executive Director