

August 6, 1996

Colonel John N. Reese, District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1325 J Street, Suite 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Colonel Reese:

This supplements our request dated March 19, 1996, that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), participate as a cooperating agency for preparation of a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program (CALFED). We originally requested that the USACE to provide assistance and review on the impact of the Program on "waters of the United States" and interpretation of the application of associated federal laws . We would like to augment these responsibilities with your participation in the full integration of NEPA and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for this Program.

The integration of NEPA and Section 404 is intended to ensure that the development of the Programmatic EIR/EIS for CALFED is consistent with the USACE and Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) objectives in meeting the 404(b)(1) guidelines, and to reduce replication of effort in the development and review of project components. This process will apply to all project components being considered under Phases II (programmatic environmental review) and III (component specific environmental review and implementation) of CALFED.

We are proposing that the USACE and CALFED establish predetermined milestones of accomplishment for various stages of the NEPA/404 process. A suggested list of milestones for the Programmatic EIR/EIS is enclosed for your consideration. Agreement at milestones of accomplishment establishes consensus and will eliminate the need to revisit these items during Phase II or Phase III of the Program. EPA will also participate in this process and provide concurrence regarding the milestones.

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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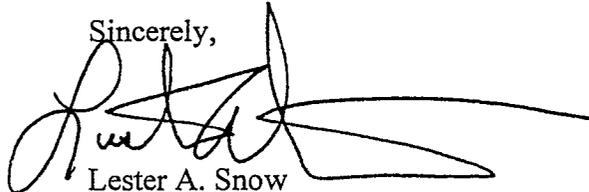
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It is anticipated that the integration of the NEPA and Section 404 process will provide the following benefits:

- Improve interagency cooperation, consultation and efficiency at all levels, thereby better serving the public.
- Achieve consensus and approval of acceptable levels of environmental regulatory compliance.
- Allow documented progress toward the completion of the programmatic environmental document and the eventual implementation of the specific project components.
- Protect and enhance the waters of the United States, which will benefit the region's aquatic ecosystems and the public interest.

We appreciate your continued support and valuable input regarding the regulatory process for this program. If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Halverson Martin at (916) 657-2666.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lester A. Snow', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Tom Yocom
Hugh Barroll
Tom Hagler
Jim Monroe
Tom Coe
Art Champ