

October 9, 1996

Wayne White
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Wayne:

Over the last several months at the CALFED Management Team meetings, we have discussed the need for involvement of Fish and Wildlife Service staff in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. Given the importance of the ecosystem restoration program to the overall mission of restoring ecosystem health to the Bay-Delta system, it is imperative that staff from the FWS assist in both the development and refinement phases of the ecosystem restoration component of the CALFED Bay Delta Program. There is also a need for FWS staff to assist in the impact assessment evaluation to ensure a comprehensive evaluation of the ecosystem and affected fish and wildlife species.

While the FWS staff has organized a central group of staff who attend numerous meetings of both BDAC Work Groups and various technical teams and assist the CALFED staff in developing and refining materials, there is a great need for more in-depth assistance in the ecosystem restoration area. We have added staff from the Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Water Resources, and are currently trying to get support from the Federal participants.

In addition to general coordination with the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, two additional primary areas of need have been noted:

- 1) assisting in the development of a comprehensive ecosystem restoration program through the development of targets and goals for ecological functions, habitats and species. This process involves reviewing existing recovery plans, management plans, CVPIA Anadromous Fish Restoration Plan and other materials to develop goals and targets;
- 2) assisting in impact assessment to evaluate the effects that particular actions may have on fish and wildlife resources and assist in refining the alternatives to limit those impacts or establish mitigation if the impacts cannot be avoided.

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

Wayne White
October 16, 1996
Page 2

While contractors can be utilized to assist in some of these functions, it is generally believed that FWS staff would provide superior assistance and would help to ensure that the final product contains information that FWS would support as a co-lead agency. We recognize that the Programmatic Section 7 consultation that will be required for this EIS/EIR must also be completed by the FWS, but consider that a separate effort that the FWS will conduct independently, however, in a coordinated fashion.

Specific disciplines that appear to require FWS assistance are:

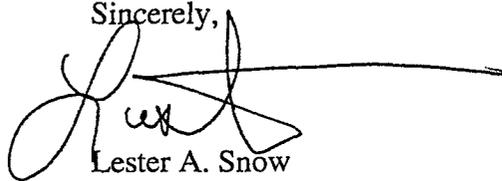
- Wildlife/Terrestrial species
- Fisheries/Instream flow
- Aquatic ecology/Habitat restoration

Level of effort for these staff is expected to be at least half time for the next 6 months and possible half time for 6 months after that.

An additional important area that the FWS may be able to provide expertise to the Program is in large-scale ecosystem restoration. Given the size and complexity of the problems affecting the Bay-Delta system, an individual with a national perspective and large-scale ecosystem planning expertise is becoming critical to the process. If you could help us identify such a person(s) we would like to consult with them on our overall ecosystem program structure and approach.

I have contacted your office am planning a meeting with you and Joel Medlin on Wednesday, October 23. I look forward to discussion and hopefully developing some options for resolving this issue at that time.

Sincerely,

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

Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

cc Dale Hall
Michael Spear