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November 21, 1996

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Mr. Dale Hall
Assistant Regional Director
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232

Mr. Roger Patterson
Regional Director
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

SUBJECT: Anadromous Fish Restoration Program

Dear Mr. Hall and Mr. Patterson:

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority, Kern County Water Agency, Central Valley Project Water Association, Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District, Westlands Water District, Santa Clara Valley Water District, California Urban Water Agencies, and State Water Contractors are deeply concerned about the Delta flow and habitat actions recently proposed for the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program (AFRP), including those being considered for implementation in 1997.

We have all invested considerable effort over the past several years to promote reasonable and biologically sound management decisions and lasting solutions to problems regarding water quality, water supply reliability, and environmental restoration in the Delta. The 1994 Bay-Delta Accord and the ongoing CALFED process are testaments to the progress that can be made when urban, agricultural, environmental and fishery interests work together through consensus-based processes with federal and state resource agencies. Less than three weeks ago, over 63 percent of California voters endorsed Proposition 204 to provide more than \$600 million for Bay-Delta restoration activities. Last month, Congress authorized \$431 million for CALFED ecosystem restoration to match the State's Proposition 204 funding. These unprecedented funding commitments were achieved through the combined efforts of the water user community and environmental interests reaching agreement on the need for balanced solutions to California's environmental and water supply reliability problems.

In order to achieve the large-scale environmental restoration envisioned with these funding commitments, it is critical that the AFRP and other programs be implemented in a manner that is sensitive to ongoing Bay-Delta consensus processes. The Bay-Delta Accord includes provisions for export limitations, closure of the Delta Cross Channel, and requirements for maintenance of a two parts per thousand isohaline within the Delta (X2 requirements). The proposed AFRP actions exceed the agreement of the Accord on each of these parameters without the benefit of any new scientific data that show whether these augmentations are indeed reasonable. Because of the importance of retaining the current consensus among the parties, it is important that any changes to the Accord requirements be well-founded.

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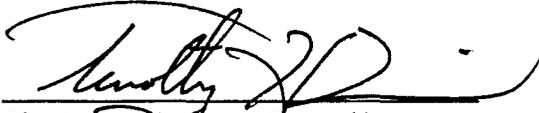
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One key technical concern with the AFRP development process is the lack of identified scientific justification supporting actions that entail major economic consequences. Although extensive comments were provided on both the Working Paper and draft AFRP in 1995, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has not provided any response, nor have revisions to either document been made available to stakeholders. However, it appears that the new list of proposed 1997 AFRP actions is based on the very same science that was questioned in 1995. The urban and agricultural agencies represented by our organizations have joined together to review the technical justification underpinning the proposed 1997 AFRP actions. We will be requesting a meeting with you to discuss our review in December.

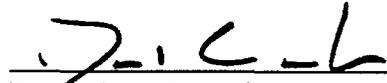
In addition to technical concerns, we have significant policy concerns about the manner in which the AFRP is being developed and implemented. These policy concerns include: (1) why the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service continues to focus on actions related to the control of Delta flows and exports when mounting evidence shows that other non-flow factors play a significant role; (2) how decisions related to the "reasonableness" of proposed actions are going to be made, particularly in relation to the possibility of disproportionate impacts on water users; (3) how the 800,000 acre-feet will be measured and accounted against an appropriate baseline; (4) how proposed 1997 AFRP actions will be integrated with the requirements of the 1994 Bay-Delta Accord; and (5) how the proposed AFRP actions may involve the State Water Project. We would like the opportunity to discuss these policy concerns with you as well in December.

The successful passage of Proposition 204 underscores the importance of moving forward together in the CALFED consensus process toward a long-term solution for the Delta that provides both enhanced conditions for anadromous fish and water supply reliability. Unfortunately, the proposed 1997 AFRP actions have been developed thus far in such a way as to jeopardize progress toward that long-term comprehensive solution. To reduce the potential for continued debate and legal challenges, the AFRP must be based on sound policy and peer-reviewed science, and integrated with other ongoing Bay-Delta processes. The urban and agricultural agencies and organizations signing this letter are committed to working constructively with you to resolve this situation.

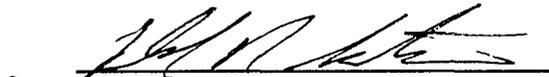
Sincerely,



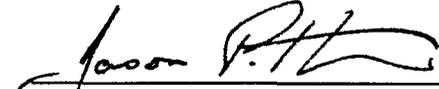
Tim Quinn, Assistant General Manager
Metropolitan Water District of Southern
California



Dan Nelson, Executive Director
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority



for Tom Clark, General Manager
Kern County Water Agency



Jason Peltier, Manager
Central Valley Project Water Association



Tom Hurlbutt, Director
Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District



for David Orth, General Manager
Westlands Water District



Walt Wadlow, Assistant General Manager
Santa Clara Valley Water District



Byron Buck, Executive Director
California Urban Water Agencies



Steve Macaulay, General Manager
State Water Contractors

cc: Hon. John Garamendi
Felicia Marcus
David Kennedy
Lester Snow