



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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December 9, 1996

Greg Thomas
Natural Heritage Institute
114 Sansome Street, Suite 1200
San Francisco, CA 94104

SUBJECT: Enhancements to the WEAP Model

Dear Mr. Thomas:

On several recent occasions, we have discussed with you and your staff the present capabilities and potential capabilities of the Water Evaluation and Planning Model (WEAP). I have indicated at these previous meetings that we are principally interested in the graphical display elements of WEAP which could, we believe, with some modifications and enhancements, serve as a tool to display the benefits of the CALFED alternatives. We feel that graphical displays, combined with scenario evaluation techniques can provide the information needed to help build understanding of and support for the CALFED Program.

Specifically, I wish to explore with you the process to pursue enhancements to the graphical display interface and statistical analysis element to allow display of:

- the additional water that can be added to the system during dry and critical years by conjunctively managing surface storage and ground water storage in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys. Fishery enhancement occurs during spring months, water quality enhancement occurs during summer and fall, and water supply reliability benefits accrue during spring and summer. Results need to be plotted as probability curves as well as other more routine plots.
- the improvements in system reliability that can be realized with the proposed CALFED water use efficiency measures. Improvements in water supply reliability can be expressed as reductions in deficiencies. Fishery flow reliability enhancements can be expressed as decreased spring diversions from the estuary and its tributaries.
- the potential dry period demand for water transfers in relation to the unit water cost of other CALFED components, other local sources of water, and unmet demand.

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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- all of the above three enhancements concurrently.
- the interaction between potential demand for water transfers and Delta conveyance capacity.
- water quality improvements (both export and in-Delta.)

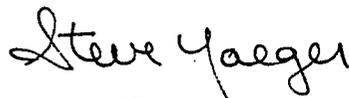
Our Program schedule calls for a public draft EIR/S with an identified preferred alternative in the fall of 1997. To be useful to us in developing public understanding and support for a preferred alternative, the enhancements to WEAP discussed above would need to be available about July 1997 (along with the Phase I and II enhancements shown in your "Second Amended Initial Workplan"). I would like to get your team's analysis of whether this schedule need fits within the WEAP enhancement project's overall schedule.

There remain, of course, other outstanding concerns such as licensing and public access to the model. I have asked our legal counsel to advise us on these issues and to review the MOU that you provided.

While we have an interest in the model and the graphical enhancements I have described above, our ability to contribute financially to the project will be limited, at least through Fiscal Year '98. We understand that these constraints may require phasing the work. Please provide cost estimates on an item-by-item basis so that we have a basis for designing a phasing schedule.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (916) 657-2666.

Sincerely,



Steve Yaeger
Deputy Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

cc: Lester A. Snow
Mary Scoonover
Judy Kelly

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