



CALFED  
BAY-DELTA  
PROGRAM

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"Reading"

December 17, 1996

Ms. Nancy Gillum  
6034 Deerford Street  
Lakewood, CA 90713

Dear Ms. Gillum:

In response to your letter of October 25, 1996 about the status of Lake Elsinore, I had my staff compile the following information for you. I apologize for the delay in answering your letter.

I recently moved from the Department of Water Resources to work with the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. Neither entity is directly involved in management of Lake Elsinore. Management of local resources, such as Lake Elsinore, typically falls within the jurisdiction of local governing agencies such as the public works department of the city or county within which the resource is located. Until recently, the Lake Elsinore Management Agency (LEMA) has been in charge of planning for the management of Lake Elsinore.

My staff contacted some agencies that presently are either involved in the management of the lake, or have been involved in the past. As you are aware, Lake Elsinore is a shallow lake, situated in a bowl-shaped depression. The natural outlets of the lake and its floodplain have been blocked by various developments. This greatly affects the response of the lake to seasonal flow and the surrounding area's flood regime. The City of Lake Elsinore has constructed outlet works for the lake and has also proposed building levees in various sections of the lake to protect the lake-side development. The problem of sufficiently controlled water levels is presently being evaluated by the Lake Elsinore Municipal Water District (LEMWD) and the Santa Ana Water Management Authority. According to LEMWD representative John Hoagland (909/674-3146), the district occasionally pumps water into the lake to stabilize the lake elevations. There are also various proposals by LEMWD to stabilize the lake elevations in conjunction with recharge of local groundwater, with reclaimed water as a possible source. At present, however, the natural recharge rate seems to be sufficient to maintain the groundwater basin. According to Mr. Hoagland, that may change in the future. Decisions on the acceptability of water quality issues associated with recharge activities fall under the jurisdiction of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 8. According to Gary Stuart of the Regional Board (909/782-4379), the

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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Board is considering authorizing LEMWD to pump recycled water into the lake if there is sufficient treatment of phosphorous and nitrates.

I hope I have provided you with enough information and leads to help you move forward with your research project. If you have further questions, I recommend that you contact the agencies noted in this letter or call me at (916) 653-6628.

Sincerely,

*151 Stein Buer*

Stein Buer, Chief  
Technical Services Branch  
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

bcc: Steve Yaeger  
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