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January 16, 1997

Ms. Carla Bard  
Patagonia, Incorporated  
259 West Santa Clara Street  
Ventura, CA 93001

Dear Ms. Bard:

Thank you for your letter of December 2, 1996, concerning the progress of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. I regret that to date you have been unable to participate in this process. It is my belief that real solutions to the problems of the Bay-Delta Estuary will require the best efforts of all of us working together. Perhaps you will be able to become more active in the near future as important plans are being formulated; you are most certainly welcome to join us.

CALFED is, in fact, adopting a watershed approach to its work. By that, I mean we view the watersheds tributary to the Delta as a continuum where upstream problems affect downstream conditions. We also see the need to resolve problems at the source whenever possible. In our watershed approach we are concerned with habitat restoration and water quality improvement in the whole of the San Joaquin River system, as well as the Sacramento River system and east side streams. As all of us are well aware, a very great deal of work will have to be done in these areas and in the Delta itself. And I think most of us also understand that, given finite resources, decisions have to be made on priorities for action.

The CALFED charter requires us to focus on the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Estuary, and it follows that we must prioritize our activities in such a manner as to deliver the maximum beneficial effect on the problems of the estuary. I assure you, however, that we intend to stay focused on the origins of problems affecting the Delta system, and to promote full and lasting solutions through our watershed approach.

Among the most important components of the CALFED Program is promotion of water use efficiency through urban and agricultural water conservation. We expect efficient use of existing supplies to be a prerequisite for receiving any additional supplies made available by the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. We believe water transfers may offer important

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**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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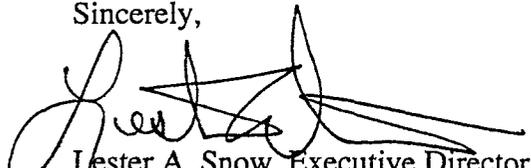
opportunities as part of a suite of Delta solutions. One of the CALFED Solution Principles is that redirected impacts must be avoided. Therefore, CALFED will evaluate the feasibility of water transfer options with respect to whether third party impacts have been adequately considered and addressed. Under active consideration through the CALFED Water Quality Program is selenium source control through various actions, which may include selective land fallowing or retirement.

As you are no doubt aware, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is required to request the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to issue discharge requirements for operation of the San Luis Drain system. While the Board has regulatory authority in this matter, CALFED staff will evaluate the effects of the Board's action on water quality in the San Joaquin River and Delta estuary, and adopt consistent policies and actions as required to adequately protect the estuary.

I do not share your view that CALFED is moving swiftly towards any specific solution for the Delta. But it is true that, while all options identified in Phase I of the process are still completely open, the process must move forward rapidly to identify a preferred alternative. You are correct, therefore, in your belief that the CALFED process is coming to an important juncture.

This is all the more reason for you to join us in making a commitment to be actively involved in finding the solutions. Thank you for sharing your thoughts with me.

Sincerely,



Lester A. Snow, Executive Director  
CALFED Bay-Delta Program