



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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May 6, 1997

Tom Graff
Environmental Defense Fund
5655 College Avenue, Suite 304
Oakland, CA 94618

Dear Tom:

Please excuse the delay in responding to your letter of March 17, 1997 regarding the environmental responsibilities and water commitments of the State Water Project. As you may be aware, the CALFED Program has not established an objective of meeting statewide projected water needs or, more specifically, of meeting CVP or SWP entitlements or contracts. Rather, we are attempting to balance the Bay-Delta system among the resource needs and constraints and achieve water supply reliability, which includes predictability as well as water supply improvements. While we will evaluate the alternatives in terms of their effect on the two largest Bay-Delta system diversions (SWP and CVP), contract entitlements will not be a decision determinant.

The Ecosystem Restoration program has been developed with the objective of restoring a healthy ecosystem. The targets and programmatic actions encompass a wide variety of actions in the current draft Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan in a broad geographic area all designed to restore ecosystem processes and critical habitat, including restoration of critical flows. At this point, we are not attempting to assign any specific responsibility, but rather, focus on the complete package of actions that are necessary to achieve the overall restoration objectives. As such, we are not specifically focusing on actions to be taken by the State Water Project, sand and gravel mining operations, recreational boating or any other specific activity. Consideration of who is responsible and who is already participating in the ecosystem improvements may be necessary at some general level during the cost allocation phase. Our efforts now are to focus on getting agreement on what needs to be done.

It would seem that the CALFED alternatives address the broad resource issues which you have raised with regard to ecosystem health and water supply reliability. However, it is clear we are not developing the level of detail necessary to assess the Monterey Agreement as raised in your letter. These issues appear to be more issues of implementation detail than the overall resource management.

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

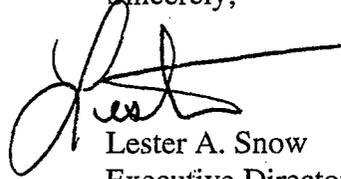
Federal

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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If I have misinterpreted the issues which you have raised, please give me a call and we can pursue these matters further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lester A. Snow", with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Lester A. Snow
Executive Director