



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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July 14, 1997

Dick Akin, Chairman
Sutter County Board of Supervisors
1160 Civic Center Boulevard
Yuba City, CA 95993

Dear Mr. Akin:

I am responding to a copy of your May 27 letter to Mr. Mike Madigan with an enclosed letter to Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke regarding the State Water Project Supplemental Water Purchase Program Draft Environmental Impact Report. I have reviewed both letters carefully, with particular attention to the specific concerns you raised regarding groundwater management issues in the Sacramento Valley. You expressed a number of concerns, and indicated that you would have the same concerns with respect to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program implementation of groundwater banking and conjunctive use proposals.

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program recognizes that groundwater banking and conjunctive use programs must be locally supported, address all significant impacts and provide local benefits in order to be successful. Accordingly, our current efforts are focused on an outreach program, conducted by Mr. Anthony Saracino, to learn more about these specific local concerns and issues. The next step is expected to be the cooperative development of guiding principles for implementing groundwater banking and conjunctive use programs which would document and commit all participants to providing the appropriate protections for groundwater resources and local users. Adequate monitoring, pilot programs, and groundwater modeling would be key features of CALFED program implementation.

At the current time CALFED has completed an inventory of potential programs and conducted cursory system modeling with a groundwater component. Further, more detailed groundwater banking and conjunctive use evaluations will be dependent on the outcome of the outreach program and local support, combined with our evaluation of potential for advancing the goals of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

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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Mr. Saracino will be contacting you to follow up on the issues you have raised and to discuss the CALFED Bay Delta Program groundwater banking and conjunctive use components. If you have any immediate concerns or comments, please feel free to call Mr. Saracino at (916) 688-5807 or Mr. Stein Buer of my staff at (916) 653-6628.

Sincerely,



Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

cc Stein Buer
Anthony Saracino
Carl Hauge
Susan Tatayon
Mike Madigan
Dan Keppen

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