



**CALFED  
BAY-DELTA  
PROGRAM**

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July 14, 1997

Randele Kanouse  
Special Assistant to the General Manager  
EBMUD  
1127 11th Street, Suite 414  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Kanouse:

Thank you for your letter of June 17, 1997 providing information on the levees protecting the Mokelumne Aqueducts and recommended actions to improve the integrity of the levees in the South Delta. We truly appreciate you taking the time in relaying these considerations on the Delta levee system integrity aspect of our Program.

Staff has reviewed your comments for consideration in preparation of the draft programmatic environmental impact report/environmental impact statement (EIR/EIS) and they are part of our public comment record.

We recognize your need to continue implementation of your aqueduct security program and your concerns for impacts associated with subsequent program actions. A solution principle of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program is that proposed actions will have no significant redirected impacts. Any impacts the proposed alternatives may generate will be described at a programmatic level of detail, in the draft EIR/EIS. Similarly, the EIR/EIS will discuss potential mitigation measures/strategies.

The Delta Levee System Integrity Common Program is being developed through coordination with the Delta Levee Technical Team, consisting of agency experts, Reclamation District engineers, local Delta interests, and other stakeholders. The specific elements of the common program include Delta Levee Base Level Funding, Delta Levee Special Improvement Projects, Delta Island Subsidence Control, Delta Levee Emergency Management, and Delta Levee Seismic Risk. The Delta Levee Base Level Funding element is to establish guidelines for funding, maintenance, and improvements to achieve a minimum federal flood control project levee design for project and non-project levees in the Delta, including "high-risk levees". The proposed flood control project levee design will be coordinated with state, federal, and local agencies for all Delta levees and there is no restriction on local governments obtaining higher levels of protection for all Delta islands. Proposed setback levees for habitat or channel conveyance will also meet proposed flood control project levee designs.

Please note that agency experts are currently reviewing our alternatives, including measures to address levee stability. Modifications to the alternatives, descriptions of potential impacts, and potential mitigation measures will be addressed, at a programmatic level of detail, in the draft EIR/EIS scheduled for completion this fall.

Again, we appreciate your interest in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and look forward to your continued involvement in this important effort.

Sincerely,

Lester A. Snow  
Executive Director

**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