



**CALFED  
BAY-DELTA  
PROGRAM**

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September 10, 1997

Dr. Dennis Murphy  
Department of Biology  
University of Nevada  
Reno, NV 89557

Dear Dr. Murphy:

Thank you very much for agreeing to participate on the Scientific Review Panel for the Ecosystem Restoration Program of the Sacramento River/San Joaquin River Delta system. As you know, the Scientific Review Panel will be convened October 6 through October 9, 1997 at the Sacramento Convention Center in Sacramento, California. The purpose of the Scientific Review Panel is to bring forth the best available independent scientific experts from several fields, including landscape ecology, fisheries and aquatic biology, physical processes and terrestrial and wetlands ecology to evaluate and strengthen the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan (ERPP). The ERPP is a large-scale, ambitious restoration plan for the Bay-Delta ecosystem.

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is a historic, joint State and Federal cooperative effort supported by a unique and broad coalition of stakeholders to resolve environmental and water management problems associated with California's Bay-Delta system. The mission of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program is to develop a long-term comprehensive plan that will restore ecosystem health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta system. While the scope of problems to be addressed is focused in the legal Bay-Delta region, the solution scope extends throughout a large part of California.

The overall Program will address four primary problem areas in the system: ecosystem quality, water quality, water supply reliability, and levee system vulnerability. The Program is unique in that it addresses all the problems in a collaborative and cooperative fashion; a unique approach in California water wars. The Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan is the long-term restoration and management plan for the Bay-Delta system to achieve the ecosystem quality objective of the CALFED Program. This ecosystem quality objective is very ambitious and the goal of the ERPP is to reverse the decline of the ecosystem and provide for recovery of those species which are currently imperiled.

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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  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Department of Commerce  
National Marine Fisheries Service

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I have enclosed a short paper describing the process and expectations for the Scientific Review Panel as well as background material on the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and the ERPP. A series of questions have been developed to guide and structure the Panel's deliberation of this large and comprehensive series of documents. The ERPP is organized into three volumes, the last of which was recently completed.

We are very excited that you will be able to participate on the Scientific Review Panel and provide invaluable advice to this historical, cooperative effort. Your critical review and recommendations are essential for success of the ERPP. We also expect that continued scientific review will be part of the adaptive management program that is a critical component of the ERPP.

CALFED staff and consultants will be in touch with you in the next few days regarding travel, logistical and compensation arrangements. In the meantime, should you have any questions and need additional information, please call Ms. Sharon Gross in my office at (916) 657-2666 or our professional facilitator for the panel deliberations, Dr. Scott McCreary, CONCUR at (510) 649-8008.

Sincerely,



Lester A. Snow  
Executive Director

**Enclosures**

Process for Facilitated Scientific Review of the ERPP  
Phase I Final Report  
ERPP Volumes I, II and III