



**CALFED  
BAY-DELTA  
PROGRAM**

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September 12, 1997

Mr. Dan Nelson and Mr. Byron Buck  
Agricultural and Urban Water Caucuses  
Policy Group  
455 Capitol Mall, Room 705  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Gentlemen:

We appreciate your considerable effort to review our Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan (ERPP) working draft summary report. As you note, it is difficult to capture and provide for review, all the complex detail of the ERPP in a summary. The recently released three volumes of the ERPP will provide you more detail, background and rationale and should answer many of your questions. However, please understand that all of the CALFED plan is being developed at a programmatic level.

The integration of the ERPP has been performed as CALFED has refined alternatives for the long-term solution plan. All of the common programs are now integrated with storage and conveyance alternatives.

The ERPP is not the sole means of providing Endangered Species Act compliance for other components of the CALFED program. We are proposing the development of a comprehensive Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for that purpose. The HCP will include the ERPP, mitigation measures which may be needed to offset conflicts caused to species by the ERPP, mitigation required to address impacts of other CALFED common programs and the selected alternative for storage and conveyance. The ERPP and any additional actions necessary for implementation of an HCP will be combined into a single effort. That effort has been formally initiated with our recent notice of intent to prepare an HCP.

Many of your general comments and your detailed comments were incorporated into the recently released draft volumes. Other comments will be refined and researched for incorporation this fall. Your comments consistently challenge our target and objectives for instream flows and "flow events". We believe flow is necessary to maintain ecological processes such as sediment transport and cleansing, riparian vegetation, succession, stream channel maintenance and flood plain interactions. We are very interested in your

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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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suggestions for a methodology suitable for answering these complex questions. We would like to encourage a collaborative effort which includes all stakeholders, the resource agencies and CALFED to refine the methods needed to define the ecological values and needs for flow.

We believe the ERPP to be a comprehensive plan which deals with major "other factors" such as harvest management, possible conflict between striped bass and listed species, hatchery management and toxicity. If you have specific recommendations for the resolutions of these concerns, we would appreciate receiving them. We need your comments on our proposal for adaptive management. The adaptive management element of the ERPP is where we plan to deal effectively with scientific uncertainty and resource conflicts.

We agree with your general statement that the ERPP should be a broadly supported plan. It is our hope to garner that support based on the comprehensive nature and scientific efficacy of the plan. We remain committed to meet and confer with your staff and consultants in an effort to understand their concerns and resolve their differences with our approach to developing an ecosystem restoration plan that will restore ecological health to the Delta and a balance among its uses.

Sincerely,

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

Lester A. Snow  
Executive Director