



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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October 1, 1997

Mr. Alex Hildebrand
South Delta Water Agency
23443 South Hays Road
Manteca, CA 95337

Dear Mr. Hildbrand:

At the September 3 Bay-Delta Advisory Council meeting, you raised concerns regarding the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan's (ERPP) vision for sediment management along the San Joaquin River. Please let me assure you that there is no intent for the San Joaquin River to become a meandering stream as that is not feasible or desirable.

Prior to development, the San Joaquin was a broad floodplain type river that frequently moved outside of its banks with increases in flow brought about by snow melt. Our vision is to recreate as much of the floodplain as is practical. We would do this with setback levees and flowage easements and perhaps a by-pass where appropriate. If we can achieve our objective, it should result in more deposition of fine sediment in the floodplain of the San Joaquin River upstream of the Delta. The desired result would be an increase in alluvial soils in the floodplain, more attenuated flood flows and a regeneration of riparian vegetation.

Also at a recent Assurances Workgroup meeting, you raised concerns about our proposals for flow events on the San Joaquin River. We understand your concern and believe it is caused by the way we presented our proposal and its interpretation in the "straw alternative" used at the Assurances Workgroup.

On page 37 of the ERPP Volume II, we propose 10-day late-April to early-May flow events that would emulate spring outflow from the Delta historically supported largely by spring snow melt from the San Joaquin River. We indicate that the flow would be achieved through base flows from the Sacramento River and flow events from the Mokelumne, Calaveras, Stanislaus, Tuolumne and Merced Rivers. In the wettest of years when our target would be for a 10-day flow event for Delta outflow of 40,000 cfs, our target for the

CALFED Agencies

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

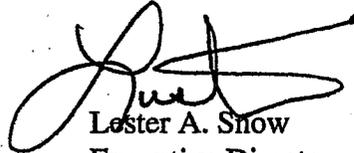
Federal
Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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

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Stanislaus would be 1,500 cfs, the Tuolumne would be 5,000 to 6,000 cfs and 3,000 to 4,000 cfs on the Merced River. The sum of these flows at Vernalis on the San Joaquin River would be 9,500 to 11,500 cfs for 10 days. This would only occur if we could obtain that much water, and in a wet year it might be possible, and if it did not cause flood damage. The implementation of the flow events would go hand in hand with the floodplain restoration we briefly described. We hope this clarifies the intent for you.

Sincerely,

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

Lester A. Snow
Executive Director