



Rio Alto Water District

P. O. Box 5068, Cottonwood, California 96022 • Telephone 916-347-3835

October 17, 1997

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Mr. Lester Snow
Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

At our October 16th General Meeting of the Rio Alto Water District Board of Directors, the Board was unanimous in their support of Senator Johannessen's formal request for a 90 day extension of the public comment period for the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan.

Rio Alto Water District like many others in the North State, did not receive notice of workshops or hearings being conducted in our area. It is difficult to believe that this was attributed to an oversight especially since our District has been actively involved with the CALFED Program for several years.

The Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan is voluminous and technically detailed. The time period allotted for public comment is not near sufficient considering the plan's potential for serious impacts on North State agriculture, businesses and property owners. We have grave concern that CALFED is expediting this program plan at great expense to North State Taxpayers and without regard for local economic issues and concerns.

Rio Alto Water District appreciates Senator Johannessen's approach toward ensuring that public programs and officials supported by taxes from the citizens of California are held accountable to those who pay their salaries and fund their programs. We applaud his efforts to ensure that the general public has access to the CALFED process.

In closing, we are sure that you will consider this request for an extension along with the many others you have received and by approving additional time and hearings, keep the CALFED Bay-Delta Program on the road to success.

Sincerely,



Roger Sherrill, General Manager
Rio Alto Water District

cc: K. Maurice Johannessen, Senator
Dan Keppen, Water Resources Engineer
Rio Alto Water District Board of Directors