



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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November 26, 1997

Mr. James C. Waldo
Gordon, Thomas, Honeywell, Malanca, Peterson & Daheim
P. O. Box 1157
Tacoma, WA 98401-1157

Dear Mr. ^{I in} ~~Waldo~~:

This letter will respond to your memorandum and attached document of November 11, 1997, which we received November 20, concerning levee stability in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

CALFED recognizes that any long-term solution in the Delta needs to address levee stability. While we conceptually agree with some of the technical information presented in the attached document, *Levee Stability Problem*, we did not in recognition of the short deadline, evaluate each issue you raised with a detailed eye. I have enclosed a draft (released this week) report on our levee program. I believe that many of your issues will be addressed by this report. We are still investigating Delta levee seismic vulnerability, and are reluctant to make specific comments on the implications for Delta export water supplies considering the current degree of uncertainty of Delta seismic issues.

The Department of Water Resources has been conducting extensive studies to help us better define the seismicity of the Delta and the vulnerability of Delta levees to earthquake damage. The Department published the preliminary report *Seismic Stability Evaluation of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Levees* in August of 1992. Additional studies are continuing so that improved assessments of the levees can be made and a rational approach can be pursued in the management of existing and future Delta facilities. The Department has convened a special consulting board to review this important work. The members of the board are Professors Raymond Seed and Bruce Bolt of U.C. Berkeley, and Professor I M. Idriss of U.C. Davis.

Thank you for your interest in this important issue. Please be assured that CALFED will continue to investigate the vulnerability of the Delta levees to earthquake damage so that we can implement an effective, affordable solution to levee stability in the Delta.

Sincerely,

Steve Yaeger
Deputy Director

Enclosure

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