



CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM

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March 31, 1998

Robert E. Boyden
3415 Oro Dam Boulevard
Oroville, CA 95966

Dear Mr. Boyden:

I regret that I was not able to attend the February 18, 1998 meeting of the Oroville Recreation Advisory Committee, at which you explained your proposed Salinity Control Mechanism for the Carquinez Strait. I recall that we chatted briefly about this device in Durham on December 9, 1997.

I have reviewed some of our previous correspondence and your pamphlet, *California Water*, which was circulated at the February 18 meeting. I understand that you believe this device would be the most appropriate solution for Bay-Delta ecosystem and water management issues. I also understand that you believe that a model of this device should be installed in the Army Corps of Engineers' Bay Model in Sausalito, to determine exactly how much fresh water would be saved from San Francisco Bay, design requirements, and other associated matters.

As you are probably aware, the CALFED Bay-Delta Program is working on an integrated approach to four interrelated resource areas: ecosystem restoration, water quality protection, water supply reliability, and levee system integrity. A salinity control device may have merit as a method for increasing the quantity of water available for export from the Delta. However, as we mentioned in earlier correspondence, the proposed salinity control device was not carried forward for further consideration because it would cause several significant detrimental effects. For example, fish and wildlife biologists point out that tidal actions and properly located salinity gradient are important physical features of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. A salinity control device would disrupt tidal actions and the salinity gradient, and therefore would have detrimental effect on fisheries. Additional concerns related to migration of anadromous fish and to entrainment of industrial effluents cause us to conclude that this barrier proposal does not meet the multiple objectives of the Program.

Thank you again for bringing this matter to our attention.

Sincerely,

Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

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