



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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April 2, 1998

Betty Ann and Wade Hough
P.O. Box 881
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Dear Mr. and Ms. Hough:

Thank you for your attendance and participation in the February 18, 1998 CALFED meeting, and for the comments you provided us. I hope this response will help to address some of the issues you raised.

CALFED is comprised of 15 diverse state and federal agencies working with an even more diverse group of stakeholders. Because of this diverse constituency and because of participation by the public, the CALFED decision will be one that best serves the overall interests of Californians, including those who live in the northern part of the state.

Early in the CALFED process an alternative was considered that would control salinity by means of a barrier across Carquinez Strait. This was not the first time the concept has been advanced; a similar idea was conceived in 1879, and has been proposed again on a number of subsequent occasions. While such a barrier would effectively control salinity intrusion into the Delta, it would also have serious problems, such as obstructing fish migration, obstructing navigation, potentially compromising the ability to manage flood flows, and causing water quality stagnation. The problems with the concept have never been satisfactorily resolved and, I believe, explain why this alternative has never been adopted. It was rejected in the CALFED Program for the same basic reasons.

As the focus of the CALFED Program is the Bay-Delta estuary and the species that depend on it, the scope of the Program restricts our interest in recreation to matters that relate to the estuary. It is not clear to me, therefore, how build-out of recreation facilities in the Oroville area would qualify for CALFED investment. We do, however, intend to invest in watershed activities, including projects in upper watersheds that can benefit migratory fish or that would affect flows, temperature, or other factors that influence the estuary. In addition, CALFED has a strong interest in helping local interests preserve Sacramento Valley ground water resources, and we are evaluating ways to use surface water storage

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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capabilities in the north Valley to improve conjunctive management of this important resource. Additional surface water storage in the Sacramento River watershed definitely is being considered as part of the solution package.

While southern California is an important part of the state, and while the CALFED Program is intended to benefit the citizens who live there, we are equally committed to providing benefits to the critically important agricultural resources of the state, and to protect the local economies that rely on the economic base agriculture provides. I believe is entirely possible for the CALFED Program to yield benefits for city dwellers and rural citizens alike and, in fact, believe an acceptable solution must do both.

Thank you once again for giving your time to participate in this process. We need your continued assistance to assure the solutions that are found work for all of us.

Sincerely,



Lester A. Snow
Executive Director