



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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April 13, 1998

Mr. Larry Busby
Executive Director
Central Sierra Planning Council
53 West Bradford Avenue, Suite 200
Sonora, CA 95370

Dear Mr. Busby:

Thank you for your comments regarding the CALFED Watershed Management Coordination program. We appreciate your comments on the need to create a logical approach to address the CALFED upper watershed activities. Many of the observations you made in your letter are addressed in the February 18, 1998 Draft CALFED Watershed Management Strategy document (enclosed).

The CALFED Watershed Management Program will utilize a watershed management structure to provide for interagency and interwatershed coordination of restoration and management efforts. This includes a planning process which takes advantage of existing watershed management councils, Coordinated Resource Management and Planning efforts, Resource Conservation Districts and other ongoing stakeholder processes. It is our intent to form partnerships with federal, state and local agencies to accomplish common goals as the Watershed Management Program advances. We believe this is the most viable approach to ensuring multiple districts and jurisdictions are represented in the CALFED coordination efforts.

The organizational structure of the Program includes the formation of a technical Interagency Watershed Advisory Team (IWAT). The IWAT will include key technical representatives from federal, state, local agencies, stakeholders, and watershed councils actively participating in or funding watershed efforts. The function of the IWAT will be to provide a liaison between CALFED management and entities actively carrying out watershed restoration efforts and participating in the development of plans for those efforts.

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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We are currently planning two regional watershed stakeholder meetings to inform stakeholders of the Program and solicit their input on its approach. We have placed your organization on the mailing list to receive notices for the stakeholder meetings. The meeting notice for the watershed stakeholder meetings for April 23, 1998 and April 30, 1998 is enclosed. We welcome your participation in this process and will keep you informed.

Should you have any further comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 654-2994.

Sincerely,



Judy Heath
Environmental Program Manager I

Enclosure