

**Congress of the United States**

Washington, DC 20515

June 30, 1998

The Honorable Bruce Babbitt  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Babbitt:

As the CALFED Bay-Delta program approaches its most crucial phase, we are writing to express our strong support for this historic process and to commend you for your decisive and even-handed leadership.

During the past three and a half years, stakeholders and representatives of federal and state agencies have spent countless hours working to develop alternative plans for restoring the health of the Delta and ensuring the quality and reliability of our water resources. That was the easy part. The hard part will be deciding which of the alternatives will become the final blueprint for the future of California and implementing that plan in a manner that fully honors the principles of CALFED.

Your recent agreements on a timetable for identifying a preferred alternative and on a plan for its staged implementation can create a framework in which stakeholders and agencies can make the final, difficult decisions that will affect Californians for decades to come. As you have noted, the implementation process must provide genuine regulatory stability and make significant improvements on water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration at each stage. An implementation plan that advances one interest over the other cannot succeed.

CALFED's draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) lays out three alternatives, which, to one degree or another, have raised serious concerns among various interests. Individually, we share some of those concerns. The livelihoods of many of our constituents are at stake, and their well being is our primary responsibility. We believe that the timetable that you have laid out for developing the final EIS will give all parties an equal opportunity to influence the ultimate decision.

Although we expect that many of our constituents will be working within the CALFED process to shape the preferred alternative, we will not seek to undermine that process or to predetermine its outcome by issuing thinly veiled ultimatums.

Parties that attempt exert outside political pressure to advance their agenda within the CALFED process do a disservice to California because they divert resources away from the critical task at hand. They also return us to the worn-out rhetoric and tactics of the past. The days of "good guys" versus "bad guys" are over - we are all Californians trying to make tough decisions about our future together.

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Nobody will be completely happy with the final CALFED alternative, but that isn't the measure of CALFED's success. CALFED success depends on the willingness of all parties to work collectively toward the common good, even if that means letting go of the cherished ideas of the past.

Your unenviable task is to keep everybody at the table, no matter how difficult that may be. We are confident that you will succeed, and you can count on our support.

Sincerely,

<u>Bill Larkin</u>	<u>Jerry Lewis</u>
<u>Greg Palumbo</u>	<u>Lee Calvert</u>
<u>Mary Bow</u>	<u>Anna H. D.</u>
<u>Ed Royce</u>	<u>Bill Thomas</u>
<u>Frank McCracken</u>	<u>James H. ...</u>
<u>Cindy</u>	<u>Brian Bellamy</u>
<u>Dale Livingston</u>	<u>Deon D. ...</u>
<u>Ron Beckard</u>	