



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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December 3, 1998

Greg Thomas
President
Natural Heritage Institute
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Dear Greg:

I want to thank you for your participation in the CALFED meetings with Secretary Babbitt and senior state and federal officials over the past three weeks. As you know, the discussions have addressed issues of critical importance in preparing a draft CALFED Program preferred alternative for public review and discussion. These issues have included water quality and conveyance, the potential for simultaneous fish protection and water supply reliability actions in the Delta, and the overall CALFED water management strategy. Your input has been vital to the Secretary and Chief of Staff Dunn in their efforts to craft consensus on the entirety of Program actions and frame issues for better BDAC and public discussions.

It is our expectation to prepare and release a draft Phase II report this year. We anticipate that strengthening consensus on the CALFED preferred alternative will continue through the coming year. Your input will be a vital part of this ongoing process. I hope that you will be able to continue to work with us and with other members of the broad stakeholder community in refining the preferred alternative over the next twelve months.

Thank you again for taking time out of your schedule to join us and to help build a program with the broadest support and benefit across California.

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