



**M e m o r a n d u m**

Date: December 7, 1998

To: Martha Davis  
Robert Meacher

From: Lester A. Snow  
Executive Director

Subject: State Watershed Legislation

This memo follows up on an action item that resulted from the meeting with Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and the Governor's Chief of Staff George Dunn on November 10, 1998. The meeting provided useful input into various aspects of the CALFED Watershed Management Program. However, there was one subject area that received broad support. There was general agreement to pursue state legislation establishing a "California Watershed Management Act."

The primary benefit of the "Watershed Management Act" would be to increase the level of commitment to watershed programs and provide a coordinated and unifying approach to watershed management for California. While such an effort should cover the entire state, the CALFED Bay-Delta Program would be a significant component. It was suggested that the Watershed Protection and Restoration Council established by Executive Order W-159-97 could be a starting point for a legislative effort.

I would like to have the BDAC Watershed Management Work Group evaluate the scope and details for state watershed legislation and advise CALFED on the appropriate course. If possible, a report from the work group in January 1999 would be very timely. Please coordinate with John Lowrie, Manager of the CALFED Watershed Management Program. He can be reached at 916/653-5422 (CALFED Program) or 530/757-8301 (Natural Resources Conservation Service).

Thank you for your assistance on this issue.

cc: The Honorable Douglas P. Wheeler, Secretary for Resources  
Daniel McCarroll, Legislative Coordinator  
John Lowrie, Watershed Program Manager

**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