



**CALFED  
BAY-DELTA  
PROGRAM**

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**(916) 657-2666**  
**FAX (916) 654-9780**

March 3, 1999

David A. Breninger, General Manager  
Placer County Water Agency  
P.O. Box 6570  
Auburn, CA 95604

Dear Mr. Breninger:

Thank you for your letter regarding our proposed evaluation of reintroducing salmon and steelhead to the Yuba River above Englebright Dam. We have been informed of concerns similar to yours at the public meetings we held in Olivehurst and Penn Valley.

As you are probably aware, the two public meetings we sponsored through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided us with an extensive listing of comments and issues. We are working to condense the material in order to identify the key issues for our initial feasibility or reconnaissance level studies. We are interested in the key issues as they individually or cumulatively will redefine our approach to reintroducing anadromous fish above Englebright Dam. We expect that agency staff and stakeholders may identify the following issues as key: (1) quality and distribution of habitat for anadromous fish above Englebright Dam, (2) mercury content of sediments in Englebright, (3) downstream flood control, (4) water rights issues and the integrity of existing water management systems, (5) economic issues related to recreation, power generation, and water supply, and (6) options of moving adult fish above Englebright Dam and provisions to allow the downstream movement of juvenile fish.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife is in the process of selecting a new facilitator to assist in defining the key issues and we are forming a smaller workgroup to develop feasibility study recommendations. We expect to have the facilitator available in mid-March and to convene the first small workgroup meeting about two weeks after that. We anticipate that evaluation of reoperating water project facilities in the upper Yuba drainage would occur only if we find habitat suitable to support spawning and rearing for steelhead or spring-run chinook salmon. But that may depend on the recommendations of the working group.

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**CALFED Agencies**

<p><b>California</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Resources Agency</li> <li>Department of Fish and Game</li> <li>Department of Water Resources</li> <li>California Environmental Protection Agency</li> <li>State Water Resources Control Board</li> </ul>	<p><b>Federal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental Protection Agency</li> <li>Department of the Interior</li> <li>Fish and Wildlife Service</li> <li>Bureau of Reclamation</li> <li>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Agriculture</li> <li>Natural Resources Conservation Service</li> <li>Department of Commerce</li> <li>National Marine Fisheries Service</li> </ul>
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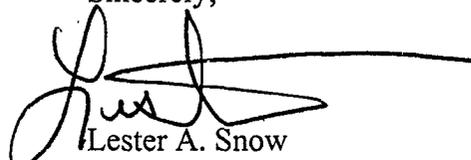
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Given PCWA's dependence upon the Yuba River watershed for a portion of its water supply, your concern about the potential long-term impacts of reintroducing anadromous fish is understandable. We wish to work closely with PCWA and other affected agencies, as well as the CALFED stakeholder community at large, to make sure that all concerns are identified, understood and properly addressed.

As a starting point we will rely on a small work group to raise issues related to the concerns, constraints, and opportunities related to water project operations and reoperation. We will actively seek your input and feedback as this process moves forward.

If you have further questions, please feel free to call me at (916) 657-2666 or Dick Daniel at (916) 657-0199.

Sincerely,



Lester A. Snow  
Executive Director