

99-16

Placer County Water Agency

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A Public Agency

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January 29, 1999
File 100-12, 100-14, 502-2

Mr. Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: CALFED's Proposed Upper Yuba River Restoration Study

Dear Mr. Snow: **LESTER** —

The Placer County Water Agency Board of Directors has heard that CALFED staff is in the planning stages of an upper Yuba River Restoration Study. We have heard that, among the alternatives being considered in the Study is the introduction of anadromous fish (steelhead trout and spring Chinook salmon) above Englebright Dam in the upper Yuba River watershed, as well as the possible decommissioning of Englebright Dam on the lower Yuba River. If PCWA understands these alternatives correctly and if the upper Yuba River flows were re-operated without CALFED understanding and mitigating Placer County's interests in these matters, the result may be the imposition of severe and adverse impacts upon our County's water supplies from the upper Yuba River.

It is for this reason, Lester, that I am writing to you to draw to your attention the following information and to request a fresh approach insofar as Placer County water resources are affected by this CALFED Study.

PCWA holds water purchase contracts with Pacific Gas and Electric Company for deliveries of up to 125,400 acre feet of water annually from the upper Yuba River watershed system with storage and diversions emanating from Lake Spaulding. This essential surface water supply is available to Placer County through longstanding interbasin connections from the upper Yuba River to the Bear River and thereafter through innumerable miles of canals, flumes and streams in Placer County. These supplies provide virtually all of the water now used in the Cities of Auburn, Colfax, Lincoln, Loomis and Rocklin and part of Roseville, plus communities like Alta, Applegate, Dutch Flat, Meadow Vista, Newcastle, Penryn, and many other unincorporated areas throughout central and western Placer County.

In addition to PCWA's purchased water supply, the Nevada Irrigation District, in conjunction with PG&E, also provides a significant amount of upper Yuba River water through a similar interbasin arrangement to a large area of Placer County stretching from Auburn to Lincoln.

These combined resources are the only available supply of year-round, reliable surface water for well over a hundred thousand people in Placer County, plus farms, businesses, industries, open space and stream habitat. In addition, the upper Yuba River supplies are an integral element in meeting planned future water demands in our county and cities.

Because of the topography and the expansiveness of our County, the flows from upper Yuba River system eventually flow off to a wide array of differing watersheds: American River Watershed, Auburn Ravine

Mr. Lester Snow

January 29, 1999

and Coon Creek Watershed, Bear River Watershed and Dry Creek Watershed. Some of our local waterways serve as the conveyance system for surface water deliveries to western Placer County agriculture. In several instances our waterways support anadromous fish plus local habitat and wildlife.

The contemplated alternatives in the CALFED Study, depending upon the level of mitigation considerations given to Placer County, could seriously affect the overall water supplies available to us and result in significant and adverse environmental, economic and social impacts in Placer County.

You can imagine the level of resistance that would be encountered from Placer County and the region if a CALFED process moved forward or was implemented that diminished Placer County's water supplies or imposed any imbalance upon our regional's water resources.

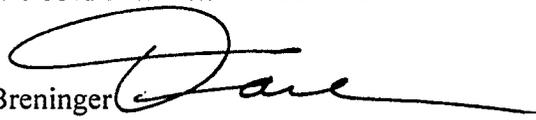
Our Board is accustomed to an interest-based, collaborative approach to addressing and resolving water resource issues and especially so when they are on a regional or interbasin level. PCWA is willing to hear more about CALFED's proposed plans for the upper Yuba River system whereupon we can elaborate further on our concerns and interests. Representatives of PCWA are available at your convenience to meet with you to discuss the CALFED proposal and to provide you insight on these matters.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY

David A. Breninger
General Manager
On behalf of the Board of Directors



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pc: Bay-Delta Advisory Council
Kevin Wolf & Associates (CALFED consultant)
County of Placer Board of Supervisors
County of Placer Planning Commission
County of Placer Open Space Committee
City Councils of the Cities of Auburn, Colfax, Lincoln, Loomis, Rocklin, Roseville
Pacific Gas and Electric Company Board of Directors
Nevada Irrigation District Board of Directors

County of Nevada Board of Supervisors
Yuba County Water Agency Board of Directors
County of Yuba Board of Supervisors
South Sutter Water District Board of Directors
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