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April 20, 1999

Honorable Jim Costa, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources
State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Costa:

This is in response to your question regarding how water supplies will be affected if the CALFED Bay-Delta Program does not include provisions for additional water storage facilities. This question was raised during discussion of the *California Water Plan Update* (Department of Water Resources Bulletin 160-98) in the February 23, 1999, joint hearing of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources and the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife.

As you know, one of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program's objectives is improvement in water supply reliability in the Bay-Delta system. We believe water supply reliability will be improved through an integrated water management strategy that will accomplish five results: 1) reduction in water diversion conflicts between environmental uses and consumptive uses, 2) decrease in drought impacts, for both the environment and other users, 3) increase water supply availability by providing means for water users and the environment to acquire additional water at high priority times and places, 4) increase operational flexibility by improving the ability of the system to respond appropriately to unforeseen or unpredictable future events, and 5) increase the utility of the water used for all beneficial uses by improving water quality. CALFED is developing an integrated water management strategy to achieve these objectives using a wide range of water management tools, including water conservation, water recycling, water transfers, water storage, watershed management, water quality control, and monitoring and real-time diversion and facilities management.

In this context, water supply will be affected by a combination of actions both to increase water supply and decrease water demand. Increases in water supply can be achieved through improvements in the configuration of Delta facilities, consistent with our strategy of developing a through-Delta conveyance approach; through increased water recycling efforts; and through development of water storage facilities. Water demand can be decreased through a wide variety of water conservation measures.

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

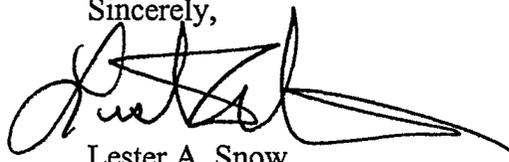
Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

Hon. Jim Costa
April 20, 1999
Page Two

In our December 1998 *Revised Phase II Report*, we identify potential increases in water supply of about 200,000 acre-feet per year from Delta improvements and about 570,000 acre-feet per year from increased urban water recycling efforts. We also identify about 1 million acre-feet per year reduction in water demand from implementation of water conservation measures attributable to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. All these amounts are independent of development of additional water storage facilities, which - as analyzed - may add up to 800,000 acre-feet of supply.

I hope this information is helpful. Please call me at 657-2666 if you have further questions on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lester A. Snow", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lester A. Snow
Executive Director