



# San Joaquin River Group

99-102

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- Turlock Irrigation District
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Stein

April 5, 1999

CALFED Policy Group  
 C/o Lester Snow  
 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Proposed 1999 Implementation of the San Joaquin River Agreement (SJRA)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are writing in response to the March 30, 1999 letter from Mr. John Herrick, Attorney for the South Delta Water Agency (SDWA) to CALFED. Our intent is to correct certain misstatements made in Mr. Herrick's letter.

The San Joaquin River Group (SJRG) committed to fully analyze, disclose and discuss potential impacts and ramifications of the 1999 operation that will generally conform with the SJRA. We have provided the technical analysis that was developed for the 1999 pulse flows operation for all stakeholders to review. The analysis concludes there are no impacts to the South Delta Water Agency (SDWA) during the next two years (as per our mutually agreed upon period of analysis). This analysis has been conducted on an open basis for all interested parties to provide their input. The results of the analysis were discussed on two occasions during No-Name Group conference calls and at the Ops Group meeting. The overwhelming reaction at the Ops Group was there were no adverse impacts and the 1999 pulse flows must proceed.

We note that Mr. Herrick suggests stopping the implementation of the 1999 pulse flows because his agency has filed a lawsuit. That rationale would allow any objecting party to stop any action simply by filing suit. We believe that the environmental documents that were produced adhered to the environmental compliance process. Mr. Herrick has injunctive relief through the courts if he wishes to stop the 1999 pulse flows as a result of his lawsuit.

Mr. Herrick is clearly off base by stating CALFED would usurp the SWRCB. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Bay-Delta water rights hearings have been conducted according to the SWRCB rules and procedures and we believe they will continue to do so. The limited actions by CALFED to insure that interested parties would receive full consideration of their concerns in regard to the 1999 pulse flow has been exemplary.

As noted above, the results of the modeling and analysis conclude there are no risks during water years 1999 and 2000 to the SDWA and that water quality is improved under most circumstances.

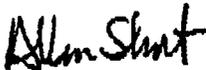
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The statistical "slight of hand" by Mr. Herrick in trying to create impacts where there are none is all too obvious. The truth of the matter is that water quality is improved under the 1999 pulse flows.

Mr. Herrick presents the case that since the CVPIA b(2) situation is in court, no action should go forward. Litigation, unfortunately, continues to be part of the process to resolve these difficult water issues. Under Mr. Herrick's interpretation, any water litigation could be extrapolated to stymie future California water actions. Hopefully, reasonable minds will continue to prevail in support of solutions such as the SJRA.

We very much appreciate your help in providing the forum for answering the questions raised by several of the interested parties. The analysis indicates there will be no impacts and therefore the 1999 pulse flows are being implemented.

Sincerely,



ALLEN SHORT  
Coordinator  
San Joaquin River Group Authority

c: SJRG