



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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June 3, 1999

Honorable Sam Aanestad
Member of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4144
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assemblyman Aanestad:

It was a pleasure to meet with you and Brett Michelin of your staff on May 26, 1999, to discuss the development of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and related matters.

I would like to take this opportunity to formalize some of my comments. As I mentioned, CALFED is a group of cooperating State and Federal agencies, and we are engaged in two related activities. First, we are providing funding for a series of ecosystem restoration activities throughout the Central Valley and watersheds of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers. This activity, commonly called Category III, stems from a December 1994 multi-party agreement, the Bay-Delta Accord, and it is jointly funded by interested parties, State government through Proposition 204 (1996), and the Federal government through appropriations authorized by the Bay-Delta Environmental Enhancement Act (Title IX of Public Law 104-333, the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996). Proposals for funding are submitted in response to our solicitations, and these proposals are evaluated through a five-level review process. We have received a proposal for studies regarding future operation or decommissioning of Englebright Reservoir on the Yuba River. We have not funded this proposal. However, the Yuba River has potential for restoration of fisheries habitat, and we have engaged a consulting firm to help us with analyses of this potential restoration. This analysis has begun with a series of discussions with various interested parties, including local residents, to develop a list of topics that those interested parties believe should be addressed in any decision regarding Englebright Reservoir. We expect to continue with these discussions and, later, with studies and investigations into the identified topics.

The second CALFED activity is development of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. This Program is envisioned as a long-term approach to several interrelated resource issues – water quality, ecosystem health, Delta levee integrity, and water supply reliability. To address water supply reliability issues, we are developing a water management strategy, which is an examination of ways that various water management measures can be

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

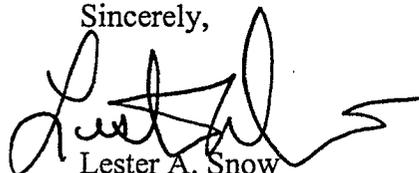
Honorable Sam Aanestad
June 3, 1999
Page Two

coordinated to achieve multiple Program goals. Among these water management measures is development of additional water storage capacity, through new groundwater or off-stream surface storage facilities or expansion of existing reservoirs. To ensure that this strategy is grounded in real-world conditions, we are examining several proposed locations for this additional capacity. Our current analysis focuses on twelve locations. None of these locations is on the Yuba River.

To address Delta levee integrity issues, we are planning a series of actions to bring Delta levees up to a consistent standard and to more fully develop standardized emergency response procedures. We have focussed on Delta levees, however, and we are not developing plans for flood control throughout the Central Valley. We understand the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Water Resources, and the Reclamation Board are working jointly on a comprehensive flood management study for the Central Valley. Mr. Steve Yaeger of DWR is perhaps the best person to discuss this study in greater detail. He may be reached at 654-7746.

I hope this information is helpful. Please call me at (916) 657-2666 if you have questions on this material.

Sincerely,



Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

cc Steve Yaeger