



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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June 30, 1999

Stephen N. Arakawa
Assistant Chief
Planning and Resource Division
Metropolitan Water District
700 N. Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

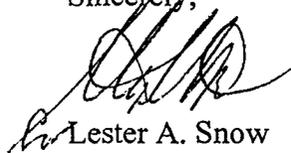
Dear Mr. Arakawa:

Thank you for your May 12, 1999 letter commenting on draft features of the SDI Alternatives. Your letter was included in the materials provided to CALFED agencies prior to their May 13 discussion of South Delta solution alternatives. At that meeting, the agencies decided to include a comprehensive approach to address lower San Joaquin River and South Delta water quality, fisheries, and water supply concerns, including permanent operable barriers at the head of Old River, in Middle River and in Old River near Tracy as part of the Preferred Program Alternative to be evaluated in the Draft Programmatic EIR/EIS on the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. This program also retains as a potential future option a permanent, operable barrier on Grant Line Canal if other measures fail to address local water availability needs.

While the broad structure of the proposed approach has been defined, a great deal of refinement will need to take place in the context of CALFED discussions, comments on the Draft Programmatic EIR/EIS, State Water Resources Control Board hearings, and project-level environmental documentation. The specific operational criteria about which you raised concerns are among those elements subject to further discussion and refinement and your comments will be included as they move forward.

If you have further comments or questions, please feel free to write or call me at (916) 657-2666 or contact Stein Buer at (916) 653-6628.

Sincerely,



Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

CALFED Agencies

California
The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board
Department of Food and Agriculture

Federal
Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Geological Survey
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Forest Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service
Western Area Power Administration