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99-196  
CONSULTANTS:  
BILL CARDOZA  
DOUG HAALAND  
1020 N STREET  
ROOM 591  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
(916) 322-3960  
(916) 324-4707 (FAX)

JUL 15 1999

K. MAURICE JOHANNESSEN  
CHAIRMAN

July 14, 1999

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

Director Snow: *lester*

Thank you for the copies of the CALFED Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR and its supporting documentation. I have a couple requests I would like you to seriously consider, as we enter the public hearing/comment period.

As in the case of the March 1998 Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR, which was something in the neighborhood of 3,600 pages, a 90 day comment period is a seriously inadequate length of time to allow digestion of over 4,600 pages of such a technical document. The addition of a Multi-Species Conservation Strategy, Comprehensive Monitoring, Assessment and Research Program, and the integration of the Strategic Plan for Ecosystem Restoration, make it imperative that the comment period be extended a minimum of 45 days.

Additionally, the locations of the planned public hearings leave geographic areas that will bear the substantial brunt of a CALFED solution, out of the "mix" for the purpose of public input. Specifically, I would ask that you add public hearings in Sonora, Nevada City, Yuba City, Fresno, and Bakersfield in order to ensure complete inclusion of production agricultural interests and at least part of the Sierra Nevada watershed area.

In conclusion, I would also like to ask you to consider allowing an additional 30 day period, beyond the close of the public comment period, enabling those who cannot attend scheduled public hearings the opportunity to submit written comments to CALFED regarding this most important program.

Sincerely,

  
K. MAURICE JOHANNESSEN  
Chairman  
KMJ:dh