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WATER USERS AUTHORITY

August 16, 1999

The Honorable Dick Monteith
California State Senate
State Capitol – Room 2048
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: San Joaquin River Restoration Project

Dear Senator Monteith:

As constituents of your Senatorial District, we appreciate your continued interest and effective representation of the water interests in this area.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Bob Rucker of your staff to discuss your letter of July 22, 1999, to Mr. Lester Snow of the CALFED Program. I gave him some additional information on the subject project and on the Friant System. He and I agreed that a meeting with you and the affected parties, such as the Lower San Joaquin Levee District, would be valuable for all.

The pilot project grows out of a three-year multi-stakeholder effort to develop consensus among numerous interest groups on the San Joaquin River. The limited stretch of the River being affected by the project in one of the most degraded sections of this major River and a long time source of conflict.

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program decided to fund this landmark experiment after discussion and approval of its Policy Group representing over a dozen federal and state agencies, and based on the unopposed recommendation of its Ecosystem Roundtable (which is made up of stakeholders from around the state). The specific recommendations for re-vegetation were developed by one of the state's leading consulting firms which is currently working with the US Army Corps of Engineers – Department of Water Resources joint Comprehensive Study on improving Central Valley flood management, as well as with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's San Joaquin River Riparian Restoration Program. The Project is supported by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and 25 eastside water districts that make up the Friant Water Users Authority. In addition, permits and approvals have been obtained from the State Water Resources Control Board and other relevant agencies. All of these agencies have been particularly encouraged by the wealth of new monitoring data this short project will yield and the unprecedented cooperation among farmers, conservationists, fishermen, and government agencies the project represents.

854 N. Harvard Ave. - Lindsay, CA 93247-1715

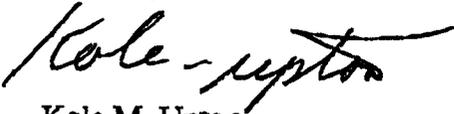
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It is important to all of us to work together to resolve the many issues regarding the San Joaquin River and we look forward to having an opportunity to discuss and receive input of this project with you and other affected parties. Please call me at 209-769-6062 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Kole M. Upton
Chairman

cc: Lester Snow, Executive Director, CALFED Bay-Delta Program
William H. Luce Jr., Area Manager, USBR, Fresno
Peter Rabbon, General Manager, California Reclamation Board
Reggie Hill, Manager, Lower San Joaquin Levee District
Hal Candee, Senior Attorney, NRDC
Richard M. Moss, General Manager, FWUA
Dan Fults, Special Projects Officer, FWUA