



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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December 31, 1999

John Herrick
South Delta Water Agency
3031 West March Lane, Suite 332 East
Stockton, CA 95626

Dear Mr. Herrick:

Thank you for your October 12, 1999 letter to Stein Buer regarding low South Delta water levels. He is no longer with the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. CALFED is acutely aware of SDWA concerns regarding South Delta stages associated with SWP and CVP operations. You indicate in your letter SDWA's belief that the three permanent tidal barriers need to be operated, as needed, throughout the seasons to address operational stage impacts.

As you are aware from our frequent discussions, modeling meetings, and public workshops, CALFED is seeking a long-term solution which addresses south Delta regional water supply availability, water quality, flood control, and habitat quality. CALFED believes that a combination of measures including dredging, extension and screening of intakes, permanent operable barriers, levee setbacks and appropriate operational adjustments can provide a balanced solution to the concerns you raised in your letter, in concert with resolution of other concerns.

CALFED looks forward to working with you and other interested stakeholders to develop an adequate range of alternatives and complete their evaluation in the project level environmental documentation process for South Delta Improvements.

Sincerely,

Steven R. Ritchie
Acting 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