

CALIFORNIA
Business/Labor/Water Leaders Coalition
PROMOTING INVESTMENT IN CALIFORNIA'S WATER FUTURE

June 25, 1999

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement of Business, Labor, Agriculture and Water Leaders
On CALFED Release:

Agricultural Council of California
Association of California Water Agencies
Bay Area Council
California Building Industry Association
California Business Properties Association
California Chamber of Commerce
California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance
California Farm Bureau Federation
California Manufacturers Association
California State Council of Laborers
Central Valley Project Water Association
Corning Water District
Friant Water Users Authority
Kern County Water Agency
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Mountain Counties Water Resources Association
Municipal Water District of Orange County
North Delta Water Agency
Orange County Business Council
San Diego County Water Authority
San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority
Santa Clara Valley Water District
Southern California Water Committee
State Water Contractors
Stockton East Water District
Tehama Colusa Canal Authority
Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District
Western Growers Association
Westlands Water District
Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District

The current crisis in Delta pumping operations underscores the vital necessity of CALFED moving forward more aggressively to resolve the water supply, water quality and environmental conflicts in the Delta. The fact that San Joaquin Valley growers and Silicon Valley industry are facing water shortages and water quality impacts — drought-like conditions during a fifth consecutive wet year — is unacceptable. In addition, due to the current pumping restrictions, all California water users who depend on the Delta now share the risk of reduced water supplies next year, regardless of the weather.

California's water system is overburdened and needs improvements.

CALFED must take this opportunity to translate this draft document into immediate actions that will avert such crises in the short-term, and provide long-term assurances that California's water supply and water quality needs will be met along with environmental improvements. Equally vital will be mustering the political leadership necessary to make decisions and implement solutions.

In light of recent events, the participating federal agencies in CALFED must make credible commitments to meeting the needs of all water interests and work within a cooperative and proactive framework as intended by the Bay-Delta Accord, rather than relying on rigid regulatory approaches to problems in the Delta.

- Water supplies for cities and farmers must be increased by at least 200,000 acre-feet within the first few years of the CALFED program, and by 400,000 acre-feet by the end of Stage 1.
- CALFED must move forward to implement measures that will improve fisheries and protect the environment while improving water quality and water supply.
- CALFED must move forward during the year 2000 on the South Delta improvements that will increase both the water supply and reliability for Delta-dependent water users.
- CALFED must identify suitable locations for additional off-stream water storage, and pursue their development.

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- CALFED must implement viable groundwater storage and conjunctive use projects to increase the available water supply in the near-term.
- CALFED must implement programs to improve the quality of Delta source waters without reducing the available water supply.

Nearly five years after signing the Bay-Delta Accord, and four years into its comprehensive planning process for a Delta solution, there is no reason for further delay. We know the problems and we understand the solutions. It's time to begin implementing them.

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