



June 30, 2000

Mike Madigan, Chair
Sunne McPeak, Vice Chair
Bay Delta Advisory Council
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Anthony Jack,
Tribal Chairman

Chris C. Partida,
Tribal Vice Chairman

Tina Ramos,
Tribal Secretary

Priscilla Ballente,
Tribal Treasurer

Dear Sunne and Mike,

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program will have the ability to implement a long-term ecosystem restoration plan and oversight of many aspects of water management. I am supportive of the proposed CALFED Bay-Delta Program and the goal of improving the environmental quality of the watershed, on the condition that the Tribes of the region have sovereign and equal representation on program oversight. The coordination of resource managers in the program area is supportive of implementation goals.

Each individual Tribe is a sovereign nation with regulatory and management responsibilities. As the Tribes of the San Francisco Bay watershed develop water quality standards, coordination with other regulatory entities will be necessary to achieve concurrence on water quality management. The watershed program, the water transfer program, and many other aspects of the program need to develop provisions to allow special agreements to protect the interests of the Tribes encompassed in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. Inclusion of Tribes in the governance of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program will advance watershed coordination between Tribal governments and the State and Federal agencies of the region.

The potential that federal funded resource management activities within the solution area will require the approval of an oversight body of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program justifies the inclusion of Tribal Leadership or their designees. Representation of Tribes from the diverse geographic areas will be needed to enable effective participation of Tribal Leadership. It has been the recommendation of the Central California Agency (CCA) Policy Committee that representation of Tribes from the CCA be included on the oversight body of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. Other regions corresponding with Bureau of Indian Affairs agency areas, the Northern California Agency and the Southern California Agency, should select their representation according to their own internal mechanisms. One representative for all the Tribes is not adequate and may result in reluctance of Tribal Leaders in participating with program activities.

The Native Americans of the Tribes of these regions are culturally linked with the lands and waters and may provide insight and knowledge of our world. I recommend that affirmative steps be taken to ensure that all effected Tribes are represented and have the opportunity to participate in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

Sincerely,

Mike Schaver
Big Valley Rancheria Environmental Director,
Bay Delta Advisory Council Member,
Central CA Representative to the Regional Tribal Operations Committee