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Victor

# Santa Clara Valley Water District



5750 ALMADEN EXPRESSWAY  
SAN JOSE, CA 95118-3686  
TELEPHONE (408) 265-2600  
FACSIMILE (408) 266-0271

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

November 1, 1995

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Mr. Lester A. Snow  
CALFED Bay-Delta Program  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear *Lester* Mr. Snow:

I would like to compliment you on your leadership in organizing and making steady progress in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. It is a monumental task that you and your staff are undertaking. It is also a long overdue process to resolve California's water supply problems.

There are a number of issues that are of prime importance to Santa Clara Valley Water District and I would like to see the CALFED Program take them into consideration in formulating the long-term solution for the Bay-Delta.

First, the CALFED Program needs to develop a balanced alternative that will effect a more efficient means of transporting water from north of the Delta to places of use south of the Delta and address the decline of fish species of concern. Such a balanced alternative will provide improvements in water supply reliability, operational flexibility, drinking water quality, lessen the vulnerability to disasters, and help recover fish species of concern.

Second, the CALFED Program needs to develop alternatives that address all of the other factors contributing to the problem of fish decline in addition to inadequate habitat. Important other factors include toxics, introduced species, legal and illegal fishing, and channel alterations. If these other factors are not given equal attention, it is doubtful that habitat restoration efforts alone will restore the health of the estuary and bring back the fish.

Third, it is imperative that the CALFED Program accomplish its mission and goals within the established schedule. The CALFED Program needs to capitalize on the momentum initiated by the December Accord and reach consensus on a long-term solution for the Bay-Delta.

The residents and businesses of Santa Clara County rely on an adequate and secure supply of high quality water from the Bay-Delta watershed. As a wholesale water supplier, the District has invested valuable resources in securing a continued supply. The District is fully supportive of the efforts of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and will continue to participate in formulating a comprehensive long-term solution to the challenges of the Bay-Delta Estuary.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Smith  
Assistant General Manager

