

file

95-39

February 1, 1996

Byron M. Buck
Executive Director
California Urban Water Agencies
455 Capitol Mall, Suite #705
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Buck:

Thank you for your letter of December 7, 1995, regarding your notes from the workshop of December 4. I apologize for the lateness in our response, but there were several issues you raised which I wanted to address.

We agree that the level of detail provided for in the December Workshop package on alternatives was limited in specificity and not sufficient to assess the appropriateness of proposed actions, especially as they might pertain to "core" actions. The materials under development for the next workshop in February contain much more detail and should go a long way toward responding to your interests in having qualitative information on each action. However, the action descriptions are not always so detailed as to spell out the precise details, such as site location and other quantitative details. Aspects of the alternatives must be relatively "open" at this point if we are to keep the flexibility we need to design and refine the potential alternatives throughout the Phase I process.

You raise several issues concerning the concept of demand management and the role it can have both as part of our core actions, and as part of the alternatives. A discussion paper on the subject has been included in the packet for the next BDAC meeting, and the ensuing discussions should assist us in identifying in greater detail the potential benefits of various levels of demand management on the quality of the alternatives. We welcome CUWA's input into these discussions and look ~~forward~~ **forward** to receiving the results from your planned work in this area.

I appreciate your comments on the water supply objectives and how they may relate to project purpose. However, I disagree that without specific language referring to the needs of exporter/diverters, those groups will be at a fundamental disadvantage in our process and the

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environmental review processes to follow. As you know, the solution principles call for a solution which will reduce conflicts and be both equitable and durable. Addressing the legitimate needs of all parties, including urban water users, is fundamental to our success. Specific language in the in-process Purpose and Need Statement, required as part of the environmental review, is more directly related to your concerns on this point, and I encourage you to review the Statement when it becomes available in the scoping process beginning in April.

Sincerely,

Lester A Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program