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February 1, 1996

Steve Macaulay, General Manager  
State Water Contractors  
555 Capitol Mall, Suite 725  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Steve:

Thank you for your letters of October 20, 1995 and December 7, 1995 regarding the October 12 and December 4 CALFED Bay-Delta Program workshops. We truly appreciate you taking the time to relay your thoughts on this aspect of our Program.

I apologize for the delay in responding to your letters. Staff has reviewed your earlier comments and suggestions for the workshop format and revision of Program materials and tried to address these in development of the December workshop. Your specific comments in the October letter covered a range of topics. While we believe we have addressed most of these issues subsequent to your letter, we can respond with some specific points.

We have defined the objective for water supply reliability as reducing the mismatch between Bay-Delta water supplies and current and projected beneficial uses dependant on the Bay-Delta System. This objective can be addressed from both the supply and demand sides and provide opportunities for water supply augmentation, as well as improved screening systems. Water supply reliability can be improved with actions which recover and protect endangered species, create flexibility in managing water supplies and augmentation actions such as surface and ground water storage programs, in-Delta storage, and water reclamation. We believe these types of actions will result in more reliable operations, as well as more reliable supplies for all beneficial uses.

The description on Water Transfers has been modified based on input from the breakout group discussion and review of the Program Environmental Impact Report, State Drought Water Bank (DWR, November 1993). The discussion on water transfers included the use of transfers for environmental purposes, which has not been the historical use of this approach and led to confusion among the participants.

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The water conservation description focused on agricultural, industrial, and urban settings with emphasis on permanent, long-term water conservation measures.

We agree further discussion of Demand Management is necessary because of the multi-objective approach our Program is taking. Demand management needs to be part of the mix and we need to go through the analysis and documentation. We agree that conservation may reduce diversion needs, however, it may also reduce the need for development of additional supplies or alternates sources of water.

Again, we appreciate your interest in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and look forward to your continued involvement in this important effort.

Sincerely,

Lester A. Snow, Executive Director  
CALFED Bay-Delta Program