

SOLANO COUNTY WATER AGENCY



DEC 12 1995

December 7, 1995

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Victor

Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay Delta Program
1416 9th Street, Suite 155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

This letter is to provide comments on some of the materials used in the December 4, 1995 workshop. I'm not sure how these comments fit in with the overall process, but I wanted to submit some of our concerns into the record for your consideration as your process proceeds.

My comments are generally on the "Potential Action Categories and Actions for Bay Delta Solutions (November 14, 1995)."

My first comment applies to the "Action Categories to Restore Bay Delta System Habitats." My concern is that as habitat restoration projects are built, and there is a corresponding increase in various species using the habitat, there will be an increase in the level of "take" at diversion pumps. A specific example we have been dealing with is the proposal to convert Prospect Island into a shallow water habitat for Delta Smelt and Sacramento Splittail. This island is very close to the intake for the North Bay Aqueduct and we requested, and received, an amendment to the Biological Opinion for Delta Smelt giving us some assurances that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will not penalize us because of increased Delta Smelt from a "restored" Prospect Island. However, a careful reading of the letter (attached) shows that there is a lot of language which essentially maintains the Fish & Wildlife Service's ability to do whatever they think is necessary to protect the species. This is the best language we were able to negotiate since Delta Smelt is an endangered species. I suggest that in a comprehensive CALFED overall plan, the fishery agencies downplay the issue of "take" (including endangered species) at export pumps since a concerted effort will be made to increase and improve habitat.

My second comment has to do with the "Action Categories to Enhance Water Supplies". The various schemes to convey water through or around the Delta will have an impact on water quality of

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diversions within the Delta. While most of the diversions within the Delta are for agriculture, which are less susceptible to water quality fluctuations, it is important to remember that the North Bay Aqueduct of the State Water Project is an important municipal and industrial diversion in the Delta that could be affected by changes in the pattern of water flow through or around the Delta. Any alternative from the CALFED process will need to evaluate the water quality impacts to municipal and industrial supplies from the North Bay Aqueduct.

My third comment has to do with management of agricultural drainage. One of the goals of the CALFED program is to enhance water supplies south of the Delta. Agencies using the Delta for water supply have, over the years, expressed concern about agricultural drainage from the San Joaquin Valley being discharged into the Delta. We are aware of the various drainage management programs in place which are emphasizing alternatives other than discharge to the Delta. We feel that it is important to integrate solutions for San Joaquin Valley agricultural drainage into the CALFED process to ensure that this problem is addressed so we can have some assurances that the water quality of the Delta will not be adversely affected by agricultural drainage, in particular, increased amounts of drainage from increased exports from the Delta resulting from a CALFED solution.

We intend to continue to participate in the CALFED process and will provide some additional comments as the alternatives develop.

If you have any questions please contact me at (707) 451-2904.

Sincerely,



David B. Okita
General Manager

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Attachment