



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

file

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March 8, 1996

Mr. Alex Hildebrand
23443 South Hays Rd.
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Dear Alex:

Thank you for your two letters dated February 11, and 19, 1996, regarding the draft Alternatives. The following responds specifically to issues raised in those letters.

Letter of February 11:

1. The purchase of 100,000 af of water in the San Joaquin watershed would need to take return flows into consideration. For example, water normally consumed in evapotranspiration by a crop could be purchased through temporary land fallowing.
2. Several alternatives include storage upstream of the Delta without listing specific projects. Raising Friant Dam could be specifically considered in later phases of the Program.
3. Both a barrier at the head of Old River and a bypass at the head of Old River to benefit San Joaquin fisheries need additional study. At this stage of the Program, we only need to refer to addressing the fisheries problem at the head of Old River without defining if the barrier or bypass is the best solution.
4. Thus far, water pricing has been considered as one way to provide for more demand management in a few alternatives. The impacts of this pricing would be evaluated in the next phase of the Program.
5. The South Delta tidal barriers are included in several alternatives to address the salinity problem in the South Delta.

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

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6. Included in several of the alternatives, is an action to restore riverine channel features in the San Joaquin River above the Delta to a more natural cross section with a low flow channel. Specifics on how to do this will be included on the next phases of the Program.
7. Given the level of detail of this phase of the Program, no specific action concerning circulation of water from the DMC is described in the alternatives. The South Delta tidal barriers are included in several alternatives. The impact analysis will be conducted in the later phases of the Program.

Letter of February 19 (we have only responded to the new comments not addressed in the previous letter):

Alternative 1

- The retirement of 800,000 acres of farm land is currently included in only one alternative that seeks aggressive demand management. It helps define a range of potential actions when compared with other alternatives with lesser amounts of land retirement and fallowing. Third party impacts and other more direct economic impacts would be considered in analysis of this alternative.
- The Program is not yet at a level of detail to further define measures to restore shallow water habitat and protect it from exotic aquatic plants.
- The California Central Valley Flood Control Associations's suggestions re. Georgiana Slough are noted and will be considered in the impact analyses.
- In situations where reclaimed water is suggested for use with agriculture, the water quality must be sufficient to meet that beneficial use.

Alternative 2

- Many alternatives use some type of "fix" at the head of Old River to benefit San Joaquin fisheries. The tidal barriers at Middle River, Grantline, and Old River (near Tracy) are included in several alternatives. We will revisit the need to include the Old River fish barrier/bypass and the tidal barriers together.

Alternative 3

- Some alternatives include the South Delta tidal barriers and some include additional upstream storage in the San Joaquin basin for the benefit of water quality. These will be evaluated in the impact analyses.

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- Each alternative will include institutional components to assure they are implemented and operated as intended to provide some type of guarantee for affected interests.
- The reliability of water supply for all beneficial uses is important and must be addressed.
- Many alternatives do address flooding problems that relate to the Mokelumne River system through improving and increasing flood conveyance capacity of Delta channels.

Alternative 8

- The goal is to purchase "real water" such as the consumptively used portion of water applied to crops to get the desired benefits.
- The details of intake and releases with the chain of lakes alternative and the evaporation compared with consumptive use have not yet been determined.

Alternative 9

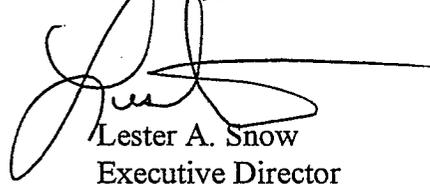
- An analyses of pulse flow and dilution water in Phase 2 of the Program will be necessary to determine the impacts.

Alternative 14

- Each alternative will include institutional components to assure they are implemented and operated as intended.

Thank you for your continued commitment to providing input to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

Sincerely,



Lester A. Snow
Executive Director