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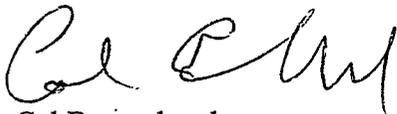
I am very interested in water issues, particularly when it comes to providing a sustainable economic and environmental future. I recently read a copy of the California Water Clearinghouse promotional piece, "The California Dream...Just Add Water". While I am glad that you include maintenance of fisheries and wildlife habitat as a stated goal, I am concerned that this ignores the larger, more long term picture. Specifically, under the section "Adding Flexibility" it states that "capturing storm runoff which is excess to Delta environmental needs could provide water for urban, agricultural and other environmental uses".

My understanding is that in river systems all over the world, the heavy runoff, referred to as "excess", actually performs an important function to deltas, bays and the ocean; that storing the "excess" can damage the bay and ocean habitats as well. Heavy run-off brings infusions of nutrients into the bays and ocean providing important sustenance to those ecosystems. Heavy run-off also brings sand further out into the bay and ocean, providing an important building block of beach habitats in the bay and ocean shorelines. I am sure you are aware that beaches are a very important part of the California economy as well as important to preventing very costly erosion of shore areas. This will be an ever more important issue as Global Climate Change causes the ocean level to rise.

I have a vague memory that the Monterey Bay Aquarium has publicly expressed concern about the impact of building more reservoirs on ocean life. This is not my area of expertise, but can you please explain to me how further reducing the winter flows will affect the San Francisco Bay and the continental shelf area of the Pacific Ocean?

As far as alternatives go, I calculate that if I am conservative about my water use, the 1100 square feet of roof space on my house could collect enough water for all of my family's needs. Do you plan to include urban storm water management and re-use as a partial solution to the water needs of California? Do you plan to include more stringent water conservation measures as a part of the solution? If not, why not?

Thank you for your attention.



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