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August 23, 1996

Gary Bobker
The Bay Institute
625 Grand Avenue, Suite 250
San Rafael, CA 94901

Dear Gary:

Thank you for your letter of August 12, 1996 regarding the Delta portion of the ecosystem restoration program. I have enclosed for your information, a letter to Greg Thomas of the Natural Heritage Institute, in response to his concerns which parallel those contained in your letter.

There are several general responses which I believe are appropriate to the concerns you have raised in your letter. The first is that we have established as a goal, restoration of ecosystem health. Ultimately the success of the Program must be measured in the quality of the overall ecosystem and the fish and wildlife within that system, not in the measurement of the specific habitat type, at a specific location. However, it is clear that we must have targets to initiate the restoration activity and ecosystem health indicators to assure that we achieve our mission.

We have recently initiated the task of establishing key targets which will guide implementation of the adaptive management program. It will be useful in that effort to discuss the various technical approaches to establishing targets and to avoid some of the current discussions now cast in terms of "tiny fraction" versus "more expansive."

Some of your concern with Delta habitat is actually being addressed in the system integrity component, wherein priorities will be established which consider, among other factors, subsidence and long-term levee sustainability in the deeper peat soils. This will help us find an efficient integration between the system integrity program and the ecosystem restoration program.

CALFED Agencies

California

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

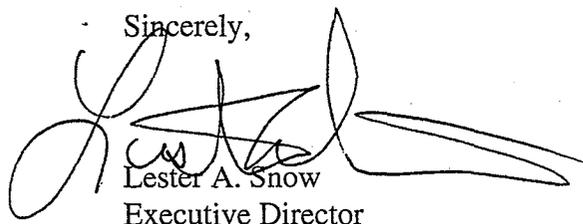
Federal

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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The issues which you have raised, and the responses required, are important and complex. It may be most useful to schedule a meeting to further discuss these issues. I will contact Roberta to determine when a meeting would be most convenient. Thank you for your continued interest.

Sincerely,



Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc Jim Crenshaw
Tom Graff
Jean Auer
Steve Evans
Roberta Borgonovo
Greg Thomas
Ronnie Cohen
Nat Bingham
Jerry Meral
Barry Nelson
John Beuttler