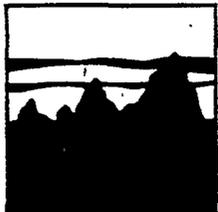


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patagonia

December 2, 1996

Lester Snow, Executive Director
CalFed Bay/Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street #1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

DEC 06 1996

Dear Lester:

Thank you for continuing to send me what seems an endless stream of documents relating to the CalFed program. Believe it or not, I read them all, even though I have not responded before or attended any of the meetings. My reasons are that without dealing with the matter of San Joaquin River flows below Friant Dam, I believe the Bay/Delta Agreement and the CalFed efforts are doomed to failure. I could not support those efforts, worthy though they may have seemed, when they began.

I am now more than ever convinced that unless CalFed deals with the flow and habitat restoration of the WHOLE San Joaquin River system, immediately and bravely, no real restoration of the Bay/Delta is possible. Tinkering with the old plumbing system, requiring additional makeup flows from the tributary rivers or building a new engineering solution will only delay the day when the piper must be paid and the State Board or the courts force the restoration of public trust resources of the San Joaquin River.

I recognize the magnitude of the task you have undertaken and the wrenching difficulties of bringing together disparate interests in an attempt to come to consensus. I deeply regret that the playing field was not and is not level, as in their naiveté, the environmentalists thought it was. Had the environmental groups still had some sort of regulatory or legal power on their side, perhaps that would have given them the kind of clout to insist that the Bay/Delta be treated as a watershed. Then, they would not have been forced to stand by while the agricultural interests and MET reject mandatory urban or agricultural water conservation, fail to deal with the 1/5 San Joaquin River flows that used to water the Delta, fly headlong into water

*check
up w/ a
few p's
today or
tomorrow
(1/2)*

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transfers without sufficient consideration of third party impacts, refuse to consider land retirement of seleniferous lands and neglect consideration of public trust issues. The latest agricultural water conservation document The MOU entitled "Efficient Water Management Practices by Agricultural Water Suppliers in California to emerge after 6 years of labor by the Department of Water Resources is truly a classic example of the "DWR mountain laboring and bringing forth a mouse". The word out on the grapevine and the latest BDAC report make clear that CalFed is reaching an extremely critical moment. It is my judgement that by allowing the Bay/Delta to be segmented, rather than using a watershed approach, the validity of whole Cal Fed process is in jeopardy. Hence this letter.

I would like to respectfully request that you take a deep breath and try a new tack. I believe that you are in danger of losing what you have spent so much time and effort trying to bring about. The State Board appears to be moving along with unaccustomed alacrity to develop the discharge requirements for the completion of the San Luis Drain - something the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board has always espoused. Meanwhile, your staff is moving swiftly towards the current version of the Peripheral Canal "light". From the minutes of Cal Fed meetings and the rumors, it appears that out of sheer frustration, you and your staff have moved into the vacuum created by the failure of competing interests to drop their litanies and that you are developing solutions for which there is no clear consensus. I urge that you adopt a watershed approach for the whole Bay/Delta system. This includes the entire run of the San Joaquin River and the rivers and streams above the northern dams as well. Only in this way will CalFed live up to the promises made to the public on December 15, 1994.

I would greatly appreciate your distribution of this letter to your mailing list.

Yours truly,



Carla Bard, chairwoman State Water Resources Control Board 1979-1982