

APR 24 1997

MODESTO IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
P. O. Box 4060  
Modesto, CA 95352  
(209) 526-7405

TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
P. O. Box 949  
Turlock, CA 95381-0510  
(209) 883-8311

MERCED IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
P. O. Box 2288  
Merced, CA 95344-0288  
(209) 722-5761

97-118

April 11, 1997

SB  
Please prepare  
response  
AS

Mr. Lester Snow  
CALFED Bay-Delta Program  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1148  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: CALFED Bay-Delta Program Storage and Conveyance Component  
Inventories, Preliminary Working Draft (February 5, 1997)

Dear Lester:

We are writing you concerning the Tuolumne-Merced Basins Groundwater Storage Component identified in the above-referenced Preliminary Working Draft. This component identifies a conjunctive use/in lieu groundwater program located within the Modesto, Turlock, and Merced irrigation districts and capable of extracting 50% of the surface water delivery from groundwater or 690 cfs.

In 1989, staff of the State Water Resources Control Board proposed a similar conjunctive use program in the Modesto and Turlock irrigation districts in order to provide additional flows for instream uses and for Bay-Delta purposes. The enclosed minutes of the Agricultural Sub-Group #6 (Conjunctive Use to Increase Springtime Flows) show that due to limitations in the extent, depth and pore capacity of the more permeable soils and limited unsaturated soil space, an annual recharge and pumping program in the Modesto, Turlock, and Merced irrigation districts would only increase, by a small fraction, the amount of water available for instream uses. The best potential recharge areas in the Tuolumne Basin is developed primarily with orchards. Purchase of these lands would be required to conduct any type of feasible conjunctive use operation in these areas. In the Merced Basin a groundwater recharge capacity study is currently under way. However, our figures for the estimated construction and O&M costs in both basins far exceed those identified in your report.

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For the reasons cited above, we request that this component be deleted from further study in the Tuolumne Basin and that the study in the Merced Basin be held in abeyance pending completion of the capacity study.

Sincerely,

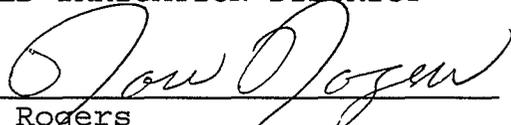
MODESTO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Allen Short  
General Manager

TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul D. Elias  
General Manager

MERCED IRRIGATION DISTRICT

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ross Rogers  
General Manager

Encl.