

OK per JK

July 16, 1997

John L. Winther, President
Delta Wetlands
3697 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Suite 100
Lafayette, CA 94549

Dear Mr. Winther:

Thank you for your comments on our working draft of the vision statement for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Ecological Zone. Your practical experience working in the Delta makes your comments particularly helpful.

We agree with your suggestion of letting X2 reach Chipps Island prior to increasing export rates. I think it is something we can model.

Setback levees are an expensive proposition wherever we may build them. We do think that addition of waterside berms is practical and may be our first choice for a method to recreate shallow water habitat.

We have received a good deal of comment regarding our approach to temperature in the Delta. We do think that the increase potentially associated with additional shallow water habitat is minimal but we will further evaluate the potential impact. Our basic concept is that we can create "temperature refugia" and improve conditions with shade.

John, we know people expect cost benefit ratios for everything we propose. However, so little of this type of restoration has occurred and no program has ever been so broadly based that we have no data base to fall back to. Our analysis of benefits will have to come from monitoring and adaptive management.

Thank you for your continuing interest and constructive comments.

Sincerely,

Dick A. Daniel, Assistant Director
Ecosystem Coordination Branch