

97-164

June 13, 1997

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CALFED
Mr. Lester Snow
Executive Director
1416 9th Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

**Agricultural and Urban Water Caucuses Policy Group
Comments on Modeling Assumptions and Operational Criteria
for Evaluating the CALFED Alternatives**

Enclosed please find a memorandum prepared by the Ag/Urban Policy Group's Technical Team on the above-referenced matter. This information is provided for CALFED's use in development of the Draft Programmatic EIR/EIS.

As the memo summarizes, the Ag/Urban Policy Group has some fundamental concerns about CALFED's approach in analyzing the alternatives. Generally, we hold a common understanding that water supply, operating criteria, ecosystem management/restoration, and water quality are all interdependent. CALFED's approach to analyzing the alternatives, however, is not integrated such that these interdependencies can be explored and understood. Without an integrated analysis, CALFED will not provide the information we will need to perform a complete analysis of alternatives, including a cost-benefit analysis.

Specifically, we suggest that:

1. storage and conveyance components be analyzed individually so that the effect of each can be determined;
2. an attempt be made to quantify Delta and blended water quality so that the relationship between water quality and yield can be understood (even if we cannot model all water quality factors, *e.g.*, bromides from seawater vs. ag drains, we believe the driving factors and water quality principles can be developed with sufficient reliability to make judgments about operating criteria for water quality);
3. operating criteria be tested against a sensitivity analysis before judgments about storage and conveyance are made; and that
4. wheeling capacity for the CVP at Banks be included in the analysis to more accurately reflect the yield increases to the CVP.

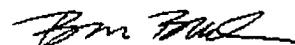
Our Group will be spending considerable effort on operating criteria. We will begin working immediately with CALFED staff to address these issues so that your analysis will provide all stakeholder groups with the kind of information we all will need to make informed and sensible decisions about the Bay/Delta.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Dan Nelson



Byron Buck

Enclosure

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