

David B. Okita
Solano County Water Agency
508 Elmira Road
Vacaville, CA 95687

Dear David:

Thank you for your July 11, 1997 comments on behalf of the North Bay Aqueduct Contractors concerning CALFED's Water Quality Program Programmatic Actions. The following explains how we plan to address your concerns.

Alternative Intake for NBA

I agree the North Bay Aqueduct Contractors have source water quality problems that are not equally shared by other State Water Project contractors. While the CALFED alternatives being developed do not, as yet, specifically include plans for modifying the North Bay Aqueduct intake location, selection of a Preferred Alternative will include consideration of all water user needs, certainly including those of the North Bay Aqueduct Contractors. If our analysis of the impacts of implementing the CALFED Alternatives indicates water supply or water quality available through the North Bay Aqueduct would be negatively affected to a significant degree, we would include intake relocation among the potential mitigation measures to be evaluated during Phase III, the project-specific phase of the program. It is certainly our intention to avoid or mitigate any such significant impacts, and I believe an acceptable Preferred Alternative will accomplish this objective.

Treatment and Source Control

Protecting the quality of source waters is an important component of the Federal and State Safe Drinking Water Acts, and this concept is embodied in the CALFED Water Quality Program. Although high quality, reliable treatment is extremely important to protect public health, we are aware that source protection serves as a barrier to the spread of waterborne illness, and is a critical component of a multi-barrier approach to public health protection. We intend to incorporate as much source water protection as possible, consistent with the needs to achieve other CALFED objectives.

Monitoring Program

We appreciate your support of the Comprehensive Monitoring, Assessment, and Research Program, and we fully intend to include water quality parameters of concern to drinking water purveyor agencies in addition to parameters affecting agricultural and ecosystem beneficial uses.

Agricultural Drainage

CALFED staff are continuing to work closely with Department of Water Resources staff who are conducting the evaluation of NBA source water. We intend to use the information that is

being developed to help us better understand the water quality problems associated with agricultural activity, to further refine our approaches for correcting problems, and for establishing priorities for action. We are particularly interested in the possibilities of controlling local inflows to sources of drinking water while, potentially, achieving ecosystem benefits. For example, establishing buffer strips between agricultural activities and source waters might improve riparian habitat while protecting source water quality.

If you have questions or would like to discuss these matters further, please call me at (916) 657-2666 or Rick Woodard at (916) 653-5422. Thank you again for your thoughtful comments.

Sincerely,

Lester Snow
Executive Director

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