

MEMBERS.

RUBEN S. AYALA
VICE CHAIRMAN

WILSON A. CRAVEN
K. M. PRICE JOHANNESSEN
PATRICK JOHNSTON
DAVID G. KELLEY
QUENTIN L. KOPP
DICK MONTEITH
STEVE PEACE
MIKE THOMPSON
CATHIE WRIGHT

California Legislature

AUG 22 1997

CONSULTANTS:
LINDA ADAMS
DANIEL WEBB

Senate Committee

on

Agriculture and Water Resources

COMMITTEE
ASSISTANT:
PAMELA OTO

STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 2031
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 445-2206
FAX: (916) 327-8290

JIM COSTA
CHAIRMAN

August 14, 1997

Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: San Joaquin River Parkway Land Acquisition Program

Dear Mr. Snow:

I am writing to encourage your support for the San Joaquin River Parkway Land Acquisition Program request for funding from Category III of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. This \$5.0 million request will help acquire and restore historic floodplain and riparian habitat lands along the San Joaquin River from Friant Dam to State Highway 99. Once complete, this proposal will provide multiple biological, ecological, and economic benefits to the Central Valley and the sensitive Bay-Delta ecosystem.

The Wildlife Conservation Board, the Department of Fish and Game, the San Joaquin River Conservancy, the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, and the Trust for Public Land have been working together over the last five years to acquire lands for inclusion in the 22-mile San Joaquin River Parkway. The Parkway enjoys strong public support in Fresno and Madera Counties and provides wildlife, recreational, and economic benefits of statewide significance. Along with protecting important habitat, the acquisition portion of this request will reconnect the floodplain to the river channel, thus providing flood management benefits within the San Joaquin River Parkway. The \$5.0 million request will be leveraged by other public funding sources to acquire properties from willing sellers as they become available.

The San Joaquin River Parkway Land Acquisition Program complements and advances the goals of the San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat Restoration Project, a proposal requesting \$800,000 for riparian restoration projects submitted by the Bureau of Reclamation, Friant Water User's Authority, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, and Natural Resources Defense Council. Together, these proposals advance CALFED goals and directly address stresses on the Bay-Delta ecosystem.

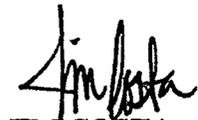
G - 0 0 6 5 2 9

G-006529

Lester Snow
August 14, 1997
Page 2

I urge you to support this multi-agency partnership by approving funding from CALFED's Category III program. I am grateful for CALFED's effective leadership on behalf of California's threatened ecosystems and hope that you will continue your support by approving funding for this important project.

Sincerely,



JIM COSTA
Chairman

SJRParkway\snow.11