

16th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Assembly
California Legislature

DON PERATA
CHAIRMAN
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140
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UTILITIES AND COMMERCE

July 31, 1997

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

Dear Mr. Snow:

I am writing to convey my strong support for CALFED Category III funding for the Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project. The project will result in the restoration of 2,700 acres of tidal and seasonal wetlands in northern San Pablo Bay that will be of direct benefit to CALFED priority species, such as Chinook Salmon and other important fish species that migrate through the Bay, as well as for migratory waterfowl. Hamilton should be included in the "solution area" for CALFED because of these direct benefits to CALFED priority species.

In addition, the Hamilton wetlands project will be able to use as a resource tens of millions of cubic yards of material that otherwise will be disposed in the Bay. This beneficial use will help implement the interagency Long Term Management Strategy for dredging, and provide environmentally beneficial disposal capacity for important Bay deepening projects, such as the Port of Oakland's proposed deepening project to 50 feet. Not only will the Hamilton project provide multiple benefits, but the funding from these other sources will leverage the funding provided through CALFED.

In order to realize these multiple benefits and permanently preserve thousands of acres of restored wetlands, it is critical that funding be obtained soon. Therefore, I urge that the CALFED program support in the current funding cycle the BCDC/Coastal Conservancy application for Category III funding for the Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Perata".
DON PERATA