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EFFICIENCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
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APPROPRIATIONS

Assembly  
California Legislature

OCT 15 1997

TOM WOODS  
ASSEMBLYMAN, SECOND DISTRICT

□ CAPITOL ADDRESS:  
STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0001  
(916) 445-7266  
□ DISTRICT OFFICE:  
100 EAST CYPRESS AVENUE  
SUITE 100  
REDDING, CA 96002  
(916) 223-6300



October 10, 1997

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

Dear Mr. Snow:

As you and your staff continue to explore the challenges and opportunities the Bay-Delta process offers, I hope the need to capture and store more water is not ignored. Creating new sources of water must be part of the Bay-Delta solution. With this in mind, I would like to request a meeting with you or your staff to discuss watershed health and winter flow storage and how they are being incorporated in your work.

The role of the upper watersheds as a critical component of CALFED Bay-Delta solution received considerable public comment at a recent Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan briefings in the north state. Returning brush choked areas and dense thickets of conifers to grass/oak woodlands and more open natural conifer stands could have a profound long term effects on the entire system. Water yields will increase, flow schedules will change as evapotranspiration and snow pack regimes change. Storage capacity of dams will be prolonged and water quality will improve as cataclysmic fires are prevented. I'm sure you will want to address these and all the other effects of healthy watersheds as the basis to the entire system in the final EIR.

So that upper watershed considerations and their effects can be addressed with minimum impact on your busy staff, I am recommending that a small Upper Watershed Advisory Group be created. This group could work through some of the complexities of restoring the health of upper watersheds and then could coordinate effective solutions with your staff.

As you know from our meeting last year, the issue of water storage is also very important to me. Last January I considered introducing legislation to accelerate the construction of Sites reservoir but then learned your staff was already beginning a feasibility study for this project. I remain very interested in this proposal and am curious to learn of any new information you may have gathered regarding the potential of building a Sites Reservoir and how I may help in this endeavor.

Steve Fitch of my district office is my lead staff person on these issues. Your staff can work with him when scheduling the proposed meeting. Thank you for your consideration of these matters and for the hard work you conducting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "T" and a cursive "om".

TOM WOODS  
Assemblyman

TW:sf