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REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SACRAMENTO
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1325 J STREET
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814-2922
October 5, 1998

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Regulatory Branch (199600168)

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

Dear Mr. Snow:

I am writing concerning the review process for the forthcoming revised draft programmatic EIS for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. Consistent with the information provided to the CALFED Management Team at their September 1, 1998, meeting, my Regulatory staff will not be able to meet your schedule for review of the subject document.

While the staff at other agencies have been involved in the review of previous drafts of the current document, my Regulatory staff have not been able to participate, due to previously identified staff and funding constraints.

We have subsequently identified funds and have obtained the services of an environmental consulting firm to support performing the requisite independent interdisciplinary review of your NEPA document. However, as this effort has only recently commenced, we cannot perform an adequate review of the CALFED EIS in the two week period that you identified. Accordingly, my Regulatory staff will provide the review comments on your NEPA document at the end of the proposed public comment period on the revised draft programmatic EIS.

We believe that our holding to this timeline is actually in CALFED's best interest. It will clearly demonstrate that our review is independent of participation or influence by CALFED. It is both consistent with our NEPA implementation regulations and will help assure the integrity of the administrative record when we seek to tier off of your Phase II NEPA document for permit applications in Phase III of your program.

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If you have any questions, please write to Mr. Art Champ,
Room 1480 at the letterhead address, or telephone (916) 557-5252.

Sincerely,



Dorothy F. Klasse
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

Copy furnished:

Colonel (P) Peter T. Madsen, Division Engineer, U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers, South Pacific Division, 333 Market Street,
Room 1240, San Francisco, California 94111-2206