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September 9, 1998

Judith Redmond, Executive Director
Community Alliance with Family Farmers
Charles Willard
Tehama County Supervisor, District 3
Linda Cole, President
Valley Water Protection Association
c/o 635 Anderson, #18
Davis, CA 95616

Dear Judith, Charles and Linda:

Thank you for providing us with your comments and concerns regarding the efforts of the BDAC Water Transfer Work Group. The issues being discussed and debated are, as you are aware, very contentious and difficult to fully resolve.

As indicated in your letter, CALFED believes that it has struck a general level of consensus on the issue of providing "protection" to third party and source area interests. We are aware that many details still need to be developed but we believe this framework of a solution is a move forward. In the revised draft Programmatic EIR/S (to be released in late December 1998) we will recommend a two-part solution for such issues.

First, we are recommending that a clearinghouse entity be formed to provide a few essential functions, including: baseline data collection and research, public disclosure of information on proposed water transfers (concurrent with review by other authorities), and ensuring that a public process occurs, if not provided through other forums. Over time, this entity can also help develop acceptable impact analysis methods and develop more information on relationships of various parameters that could be affected by a transfer (jobs, cropped acres, groundwater levels, etc.).

The second part of the solution includes having the State Water Resources Control Board, the Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation formulate policy under existing authority to require impact analysis. These analyses would include determination of potential:

CALFED Agencies

California
The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal
Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

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- local groundwater impacts, including pumping levels, water quality and recharge conditions;
- cumulative impacts of specific transfers when viewed in the context of other transfers from the same source area; and
- third party socio-economic impacts.

We hope that you will continue to participate in the BDAC Water Transfer Work Group and that you will fully review our recommendations when they are made public later this year. Again, CALFED appreciates your continued commitment to resolving water transfer issues as part of a larger Bay-Delta system solution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lester A. Snow", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lester A. Snow
Executive Director