



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, California 95814

(916) 657-2666
FAX **(916) 654-9780**

June 4, 1998

Mr. Byron Buck
California Urban Water Agencies
455 Capitol Mall, #705
Sacramento, CA 95814

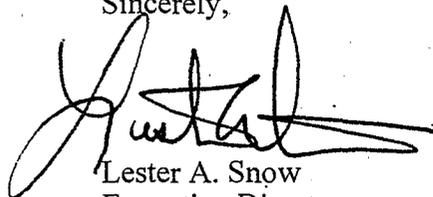
Dear Mr. Buck:

This responds to your letter of May 15, 1998 providing recommendations for tasks to be performed by an expert panel on bromide that CALFED will convene in the near future. I agree it is important that this work should not duplicate other efforts, and that it should focus on providing information useful to guide in the selection of a Preferred Alternative for the CALFED Programmatic EIS/EIR.

It is our intention to focus on health implications of the CALFED alternatives with respect to bromide in the source water. We anticipate asking the panel to describe current research findings; to provide us with insight on pertinent research activities planned in the near future; and, to predict when new information might become available. We also plan to ask the panel to assess the capability of existing drinking water treatment facilities using Delta source waters to meet a range of potential regulatory outcomes for disinfection byproducts. And, we think it would be appropriate to ask the panel to recommend actions that CALFED might take during the first years of program implementation to bring additional clarity to the issues surrounding bromide and disinfection byproduct formation in Delta water supplies. The panel may be asked to perform other tasks as well, though we intend to keep the number of tasks manageable.

In preparation for convening the panel, it is our intention to provide the panelists with materials to be used in their deliberations. Included will be the CUWA report *Bay Delta Drinking Water Quality Criteria*. While it has not been our intention to ask the panel to specifically review and comment on that document, it seems likely that the panelists will find it necessary to use material from the report in order to complete their tasks. Thank you for offering to assist the panel effort. I would appreciate your sending us sufficient copies of the report to be distributed to the panelists and to interested CALFED staff. Early June will be appropriate timing for us to have received the report.

Sincerely,



Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

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