



Helix Water District

Setting standards of excellence in public service

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7811 University Avenue
La Mesa, CA 91941-4927

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(619) 466-0585
FAX (619) 466-1823

October 28, 1998

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

Dear Lester:

The Helix Board of Directors has been an avid supporter of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. We applaud the consensus process and are pleased with the broad representation on the committee. We believe selecting an alternative based on technically superior performance is the best approach. CALFED's own technical appraisal indicates that a dual conveyance facility in the Delta has the greatest potential to satisfy the Bay-Delta solution principles and program objectives.

We recognize that for the CALFED Program to be successful, it must provide improvements in all program areas that are comparable over time and in magnitude. CALFED's most recent proposal defers and delays making the hard but important decision regarding long-term solutions. This is not in keeping with CALFED's own solution principles. By refusing to proceed with the technically superior alternative, CALFED is transferring a huge burden of reliability and water quality risk to local water districts. Our ratepayers will in essence be paying for temporary solutions and long-range solutions again in seven years.

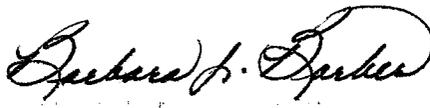
Our customers must have safe drinking water supplies from the Bay-Delta in order to ensure our region's public health, and they must have them sooner than seven years.

We at Helix believe CALFED's objectives must move in parallel and all program elements must be implemented simultaneously.

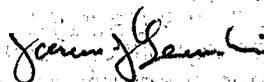
We look forward to CALFED's continued efforts as to develop a balanced, feasible solution. To do less could be catastrophic for this region.

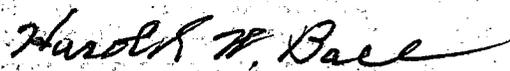
Sincerely,


H. Warren Buckner


Barbara J. Barber


Lillian M. Childs


James J. Lewanski


Harold W. Ball

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