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851 North Gate Road  
Walnut Creek CA 94598  
October 30, 1998

Lester Snow, Director  
CALFED  
State of California  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

The north and middle forks of the American River and their canyons have been found to be eligible both as a federal wild and scenic river and as a national recreation area.

Construction of the Auburn dam, the largest dam (in volume) ever built in the U.S. would flood up to fifty miles of these forks. Loss of over fifty miles of free-flowing river, over 10,000 acres of land, recreation for over 500,000 people a year, and habitat for threatened and endangered species as well as many other life forms. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Environmental Protection Agency have called the adverse impacts of the Auburn dam "unmitigable".

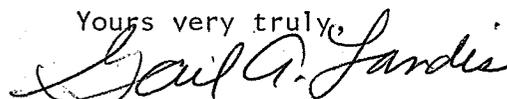
Moreover, the dam is unnecessary. Improvements to the existing dam at Folsom & to levees near Sacramento would provide protection against floods larger than any that have ever occurred or that can reasonably be expected to occur in the watershed.

Currently developed plans can meet the regions water supply needs through the year 2030 without the Auburn dam. In the next 30 years other technologies will come into being. Right now the use of plants is successfully being experimented with in the delta to control what levees now do. Water conservation policies and discipline will have to be put into force in any case and will reduce the constant increase in consumption by urban users & agriculture.

I am disgusted, indeed, outraged, that CALFED is seriously considering 23 new or enlarged dams and reservoirs across the state. It is the death knell for salmon & steelhead. The dams are boondoggles, pork to placate local politicians. What is needed is the commitment to conservation of water, to recycling, and an end to state and federal subsidies for agricultural and industrial water. Levee setbacks, expanded bypass reaches, restored wetlands, development restriction on flood plains and the wiser use of our existing dams can meet the needs for flood management.

I urge you to rethink your support for this incredibly expensive and destructive project. Just say NO to the Auburn Dam! And to any other dam additions or expansions. The day of the dam is over. There are better ways to control our water.

Yours very truly,

  
Gail A. Landis

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