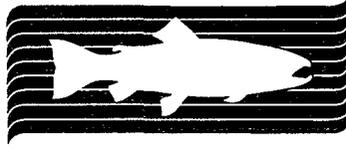


98-386

CALIFORNIA TROUT



KEEPER OF THE STREAMS

November 12, 1998

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

Dear Mr. Snow:

California Trout has reviewed the CALFED program and has issued a report for its membership to acquaint them with the program as well as to explain the policy positions that we have taken. I have attached the Conclusions and Policy Directions sections of the report for your review as you conclude your work leading to the Phase II Report.

CalTrout is a nonprofit statewide fisheries conservation organization. Since its founding in 1972, we have been continuously engaged with agencies such as the California Department of Fish and Game, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the US Forest Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service in order to restore habitat and improve the condition of fisheries and rivers throughout the state. CalTrout is also a member of the Environmental Water Caucus.

We view the CALFED Program from two distinct angles. On the one hand we see a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to significantly improve the ecosystems of California for the benefit of fish, wildlife, and the citizens of the state. On the other hand, we see the threat to immediately fall back to the dam building, surface storage, and water export alternatives that have gotten California to the present degraded ecosystems. We feel that the CALFED effort must not fail in its objective to restore the fish and wildlife ecosystems; we support your efforts at restoration but are wary of your desire to move rapidly toward further construction and export options.

The Conclusions and Policy Positions of our report are attached as well as a copy of the full report. We urge you to consider our views - which we feel are the views of a majority of the citizens of California - as you conclude your Phase II work.

Thank you,

Nick Di Croce
Board of Governors

Copy: Secretary Bruce Babbitt
US Department of the Interior



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