

98-456



FOOTHILL MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

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December 7, 1998

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

Dear Mr. Snow:

By letter dated June 23, 1998, I previously transmitted our adopted Policy/Position Statement on the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. An additional copy of that policy statement is enclosed. We have been closely following the CALFED process and we are growing increasingly concerned with recent events and the direction that the process seems to be taking. We are convinced that successful completion of this process is critical to the social, environmental, and economic quality of life for residents within our district as well as the entire state and ultimately beyond the state's boundaries.

In September of this year, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) adopted a policy position paper for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. The Foothill Municipal Water District (Foothill) is one of 27 member agencies within MWD. Let there be no doubt that Foothill totally concurs with and strongly supports MWD's adopted position paper. We strongly urge you to consider and support MWD's position and resolve the issues that they raise.

In this letter we wish to stress and amplify three things mentioned in our original Policy Statement. Specifically, these are (1) the need for global perspectives; (2) the immediate essentiality of developing iron clad assurances in every direction; and (3) the importance of an appropriate CALFED solution not only to the local economy but to the global economy.

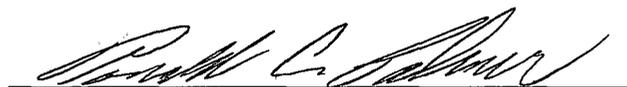
Foothill is an urban water agency but to say that Foothill is less interested in environmental and agricultural concerns than someone else is absolutely erroneous and absurd. A problem in dealing with CALFED solutions is that the various stakeholder groups have become very polarized. The need for a global perspective on all phases of the program is mandatory. The only person who can honestly say that they are not truly concerned with all three aspects -- agricultural, environmental, and urban -- is someone who doesn't live on this planet or eat here. We all must abandon the "us" and "them" philosophy and move to "our" thinking.

One reason for the polarization of positions has been the absence of adequate assurances in the past and right up to the present. In developing these assurances now it may well be that new legal bases must be developed as well as new political theory which would support the entire process. None of these things should in any way intimidate us. Also, as we have said before, if commitments have been made in the past then they must be honored now and in the future. If the appropriate assurances aren't underway soon, we fear that stakeholders will begin abandoning the process.

The Foothill staff and the Foothill board are willing to volunteer their expertise in effecting a solution. Please call on us. Furthermore, as a member agency of MWD, Foothill will continue to urge MWD, for its part, to provide the proper assurances. Beyond this, however, Foothill in keeping with its avowed global perspective will work with all elements in developing assurances and moving to healing the results of past wrongs.

Lastly, let us again stress that what does or does not happen with CALFED will have far reaching effects on the global economy. We cite our need for assurance of a high quality, reliable, and safe drinking water supply to meet our needs. It is our opinion, that at this time, only Alternate 3 accomplishes these goals and moves to providing this assurance. Assurances must be provided now, not later, to insure that the financial commitment which Foothill must make results in a workable resolution of this critical water resource issue. We will pay our appropriate share of costs for implementing an effective Bay-Delta solution, but in order to this, Foothill must have assurances now that any necessary facilities will be built and that the costs for this program will be paid equitably by those involved, in proportion to the benefits received.

Very truly yours,



Ronald C. Palmer
General Manager

Enclosure

copies: FMWD Board of Directors
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
FMWD Agencies
Association of California Water Agencies
W. Lemieux, attorney for FMWD
D. Reinhardt
Other interested parties