

98-465

# Environmental Water Caucus

85 Second Street, 2nd Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105

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Phone 415-977-5728 Fax 415-977-5702

December 18, 1998

Valerie Holcomb  
Public Affairs Director  
CALFED Bay-Delta Program  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Public workshops on Revised Phase II Document

Dear Ms. Holcomb:

I am writing to you as the grassroots organizer for the Environmental Water Caucus, the coalition representing scores of environmental, fishing and community organizations in California, to request that you provide more time to inform the public about the workshops you are planning in early 1999.

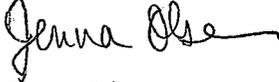
Late this afternoon, you announced that you would hold workshops beginning on January 7, 1999--providing just ten working days to let the public know about the workshops (not to mention that many people are on vacation for most of this period). No locations or times of the meetings have accompanied the announcement.

The decisions and issues laid out in the CalFed discussion draft will impact all members of the California public, who deserve to be educated about the CalFed decisions and deserve a fair opportunity to provide their input. Members of community and grassroots organizations, relying on volunteers and operating on no or low budgets, need sufficient lead time to notify their members and distribute information in their communities. Informing members of the general public, and allowing sufficient time for them to reserve space on their calendars for such a workshop, would require even more lead time.

We request that you plan to hold these meetings in February to provide adequate time to spread the word about the workshops and their importance. This request is not out of a desire to delay the CalFed process in any way, but rather to ensure that CalFed lives up to a rigorous public participation standard fitting to such important decisions.

We look forward to working with you on revising the public workshop schedule to enable the public to be more actively involved in CalFed's important and valuable work. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jenna Olsen  
Grassroots Organizer

cc:

Interior Secretary Babbitt  
Senator Bowen  
Senator Burton  
Assemblymember Keeley  
EPA Regional Administrator Marcus  
Congressman Miller  
Resources Secretary designee Nichols  
Senator Polanco  
Assemblymember Shelley  
Senator Sher  
Speaker Villaraigosa