

99-152

MAY 17 1999

SACRAMENTO OFFICE

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-4906
(916) 445-3731
(916) 446-7382 FAX

DISTRICT OFFICES

27126-A PASEO ESPADA
SUITE 1621
SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO,
CA 92675
(949) 489-9838
(949) 489-8354 FAX

2755 JEFFERSON STREET
SUITE 101
CARLSBAD, CA 92008
(760) 434-7930
(760) 434-8223 FAX

California State Senate

SENATOR
BILL MORROW

THIRTY-EIGHTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT



COMMITTEES:

JUDICIARY
(VICE CHAIR)

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

TRANSPORTATION

SELECT COMMITTEES:

MOBILE AND MANUFACTURED
HOMES

May 13, 1999

Lester A. Snow
Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

Water issues have always been critical to the economic health of coastal Southern California, given our semi-arid climate and meager, unreliable rainfall. If anything, these issues have grown in importance in the past decade, as witnessed by the recent water transfer agreement between the San Diego County Water Authority, the Imperial Irrigation District, and the controversy between the Authority and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California over control of San Diego's water supply. Given these factors, I pay attention to California's water issues and appreciate the significance of CALFED's task.

The revised Phase II Report, and draft preferred alternative, released by CALFED in December is a crucial step toward accomplishing CALFED's stated goal of restoring the Bay-Delta as a dependable supply of high-quality water and a healthy ecosystem. But I want to emphasize that people living in the 38th Senate District have several specific needs from CALFED's solution:

- * We need improved water quality to safeguard public health, meet future drinking water standards in a cost-effective manner and expand water recycling projects.
- * We need a reliable water supply from the Bay-Delta so we can plan efficiently to meet present and future needs.
- * We need a healthy ecosystem, because there is a definite connection between the health of the ecosystem and a reliable water supply.

In addition, the draft preferred alternative contains gaps that must be filled before the final EIS/EIR is certified. For example, CALFED needs to develop a detailed operational plan for the Bay-Delta system that provides regulatory certainty in how the Bay-Delta system is operated.

REPRESENTING SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY, NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITIES
AEGEAN HILLS, ALISO VEIGO, BONSTALL, BUENA, CAMP PENDLETON, CAPISTRANO BEACH, CARDIFF, CARLSBAD, DANA POINT, DE LUZ, DEL MAR, ENCINITAS, ESCONDIDO, FALLBROOK, LAGUNA HILLS, LAGUNA NIGUEL, LEISURE WORLD, LEUCADIA, MISSION VIEGO, MONARCH BAY, OCEANA, OCEANSIDE, RANCHO SANTA FE, SAN CLEMENTE, SAN JUAN CAPISTRAN, SAN LUIS REY HEIGHTS, SAN MARCOS, SAN ONOFRE, SOLANA BEACH, SOUTH LAGUNA, SOUTH OCEANSIDE, THREE ARCH BAY AND VISTA.

CALFED must offer protections to coastal Southern California that our Delta water supply will not be reduced; rather, it should be increased. The plan should include measures that substantially improve Bay-delta fisheries (the Environmental Water Account appears to be a solid step in this direction), improve water quality on a continuous basis and make water supplies more reliable for all uses.

In addition, CALFED needs to establish interim drinking water quality benchmarks prior to a record of decision on the final EIS/EIR. You have acknowledged coastal Southern California's long-term needs in water quality and set sound long-term goals. But we need interim goals so we can measure your progress toward achieving the long-term objectives and determine whether further actions are needed.

CALFED also should formally recognize that while water conservation and recycling programs are very important, they do not improve the quality and reliability of water from the Bay-Delta. Construction of the new groundwater and surface storage is necessary to meet water quality and reliability objectives, improve the situation for fisheries, and open the water transfer market. The integrated storage study that you have proposed is a sensible step in this direction, one that is essential to determine the appropriate combination of new groundwater and surface storage required as part of the solution proposed by CALFED.

Finally, CALFED must offer coastal Southern California concrete assurances that the benefits we receive from your solution are comparable to those gained by other areas of the state and that we will not be asked to pay more than our fair share on the solution. We also seek assurances that if the objectives outlined in the revised Phase II Report -- particularly those concerning water quality -- are not accomplished, CALFED is prepared to take additional measures, including construction of a new canal to carry water around the Delta rather than through it.

I appreciate the opportunity to commend CalFed's progress to date and look forward to reviewing your revised EIS/EIR when it is released in June. I sincerely hope the CALFED succeeds in developing a long-term, comprehensive plan that restores the Bay-delta as a dependable, cost-effective supply of high-quality water to our cities, farms and rural areas.

Sincerely,



BILL MORROW
Senator, 38th District

BM:gap