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January 14, 1999

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

Dear Lester:

Subject: Draft Preferred Alternative Outlined in Revised Phase II Report

Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) is a wholesale water import agency and member of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. MWDOC represents 27 retail agencies, which serve approximately 2.0 million people in Orange County. Local water resource management tools in which Orange County has heavily invested include water use efficiency, recycling, groundwater and other local supplies. In addition, MWDOC imports water from the Colorado River and State Water Project (SWP).

MWDOC is committed to wisely and efficiently utilizing its integrated water resources pool to meet its current water needs and cost-effectively meeting future water demands. MWDOC will continue to rely on water supplies from the SWP as a component of its water resources to meet future needs. To that end, MWDOC commends CALFED, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt and Governor Pete Wilson for the announcement of the draft preferred alternative outlined in the Revised Phase II Report. The CALFED agencies are to be applauded for comprehensively studying the complex issues surrounding the Bay-Delta, involving many diverse stakeholder interests in the decision-making process and tirelessly attempting to build consensus on a Bay-Delta solution.

MWDOC has supported the CALFED process since it began work in 1995. We will continue to support a long-term Bay-Delta solution and Stage I actions that result in:

- ✓ Continuous improvement in drinking water quality, water quality for resource management, water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration.
- ✓ Creation of a Delta Drinking Water Council (DDWC) to provide independent assessment of progress on meeting drinking water quality goals.
- ✓ Establishment of near-term water quality milestones prior to a Record of Decision of the EIS/EIR as a means for the DDWC to measure continuous improvement toward achieving water quality goals.

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- ✓ Development of a detailed operational plan and agreement for an Environmental Water Account (EWA) to achieve substantial fishery recovery while providing for continuous improvement in water quality and supply reliability.
- ✓ Increased state and federal investments in conservation, recycling and groundwater conjunctive use programs in California.
- ✓ Recognition that conservation, recycling and groundwater conjunctive use programs do little to improve the quality and reliability of water from the Bay-Delta system and that construction of new groundwater and surface storage is required as part of an integrated solution to meet water quality and reliability objectives, open the market for water transfers and manage the Bay-Delta system to benefit fisheries.
- ✓ Recognition that water use efficiency and recycling performance measures should be based on aggressive and reasonable effort to implement such measures and not on specific outcomes beyond control of entities implementing the measures.
- ✓ Recognition that if the objectives outlined in the Revised Phase II Report are not accomplished through Stage I actions that other measures will be necessary, including potentially a new canal to carry some water around the Delta, to achieve the program's goals.
- ✓ Assurances that benefits received by the CALFED solution are comparable to the benefits gained by other areas of California.
- ✓ Assurances that we will not pay more than our fair share of the long-term solution, commensurate with the benefits received.
- ✓ Development of an implementation agreement and complete programmatic findings for defining the criteria and process for pursuing facilities before the Record of Decision, to ensure CALFED actions move forward in a balanced manner.
- ✓ Continued stakeholder involvement and stakeholder support of all facets of the long-term solution.

We look forward to continuing our work with CALFED, Interior Secretary Babbitt and Governor Davis to reach agreement on several of the outstanding issues needed to be resolved prior to the Record of Decision and implementing a long-term Bay-Delta solution that can benefit all of California.

Sincerely,



Stanley E. Sprague
General Manager

cc: Board of Directors
Member Agency Managers