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June 28, 1999

Mr. Robert Cabral, Chairman
Board of Supervisors
222 East Weber Avenue, Room 701
Stockton, CA 95202

Dear Mr Cabral:

San Joaquin River Agreement

Thank you for your letter received April 26, 1999, in which you urged that the San Joaquin River Agreement be delayed until a plan to address water quality is developed and simultaneously implemented with it.

As you know, the San Joaquin River Agreement has not yet been finalized, but river flow and exports close to SJRA targets were maintained during the pulse flow period. It is my understanding that the USBR has signed the SJRA and DWR expects to do so in the near future.

The agreement will be implemented with extensive efforts to identify, minimize and mitigate any potential impacts, with monthly modeling analyses and review in the CALFED Ops Group. While CALFED shares your concern regarding potential implementation impacts, we are satisfied that these potential impacts will be adequately addressed. CALFED and its cooperating state and federal agencies are working with affected stakeholders to develop a comprehensive approach to the complex, interrelated flow, water quality and fisheries concerns facing the San Joaquin River basin. The various elements of this approach are reflected in the proposed CALFED Implementation Bundle for the lower San Joaquin River and south Delta region.

The SJRA is just one element of the comprehensive approach under development. Rather than delay any action on potentially beneficial elements until all elements are fully fleshed out and funded, CALFED supports a reasonably balanced, incremental approach in which all essential elements are moved forward as quickly as possible.

CALFED Agencies

California The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board
Department of Food and Agriculture

Federal Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Geological Survey
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Forest Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service
Western Area Power Administration