

JUN 05 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
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June 1, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie,
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

On behalf of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, I am writing to express our strong interests regarding ongoing discussions between the Department of Interior and the State of California to finalize CALFED's Preferred Program Alternative (PPA).

MANAGEMENT BOARD:

Bay Area Audubon Council
Bay Area Open Space Council
Bay Planning Coalition
Citizens Committee to
Complete the Refuge
Ducks Unlimited
National Audubon Society
Point Reyes Bird Observatory
Pacific Gas & Electricity
Save San Francisco Bay
Association
Sierra Club
The Bay Institute
The Conservation Fund
Urban Creeks Council

Ex-Officio Members:

Bay Conservation &
Development Commission
California Department
of Fish and Game
Coastal Conservancy
Coastal Region, Mosquito &
Vector Control District
National Fish and Wildlife
Foundation
National Marine Fisheries
Service
Natural Resources
Conservation Service
Regional Water Quality Control
Board, SF Bay Region
San Francisco Estuary Project
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Wildlife Conservation Board

The San Francisco Bay Joint Venture (SFBJV) is a partnership of twenty five public agencies, environmental organizations, business groups and agricultural interests working cooperatively to protect, restore, increase and enhance wetlands, riparian habitat and associated uplands throughout the San Francisco Bay Region. The San Francisco Bay Joint Venture partners, which include many more organizations than are on our letterhead, have been undertaking a wide array of wetland and riparian projects around the SF Bay Watersheds. As shown in the enclosed habitat projects map, the partners of the SF Bay Joint Venture are involved in almost 200 partnership-based wetlands and creek restoration, enhancement and/or acquisition projects. As individual organizations and as a coalition under the umbrella of the SF Bay Joint Venture, we have an interest in an equitable outcome for CALFED. This is one that balances the many interests, takes a truly integrative approach in the solution, maintains adequate baseline fresh water flows to the SF Bay, and provides dedicated funding to the Ecosystem Restoration Program.

While we support the goal of providing reliability to agricultural and urban water users, we also want to ensure that the environment receives equivalent assurances through the final PPA. **CALFED must fully fund and implement the Ecosystem Restoration Program plan (ERPP)**, by following through on previous commitments to provide a guaranteed funding source and by creating a mechanism that will be able to manage the ERPP, which we believe is essential for the long-term viability of the Bay-Delta Program. Our Management Board has long supported increased ecosystem restoration funding for the Bay through CALFED, just as we are seeking many other federal, state and private match funds for our myriad projects around the SF Estuary.

Since CALFED estimates that close to \$1 billion will be needed during Stage One to restore the Bay-Delta ecosystem, we are requesting that \$150 million be dedicated each year to implement the ERPP. Further, this

funding should be provided on top of CVPIA mitigation and environmental restoration funds, and along with the funding necessary to purchase the water allocated to the Environmental Water Account.

The requests contained in this letter reflect the collective perspective of the non-governmental organizations on our Management Board and exclude the public agency members who are unable to take positions on legislative issues.

Thank you for your consideration of these important elements in the recommended CALFED solution.

Sincerely,



John Steere
Director

ATTACHMENT

**CC: The Honorable Bruce Babbitt, Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior**

**The Honorable Gray Davis, Governor
State of California**

**The Honorable Felicia Marcus, Administrator, Region IX
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

**The Honorable Mary Nichols, Secretary
California Resources Agency**

SF Bay Joint Venture Management Board

Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture

Support letters: CALFED ERP.ltr.doc