



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ecological Services
Sacramento Field Office
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 130
Sacramento, California 95821-6340

IN REPLY REFER TO:
WR-CFED

July 9, 1996

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

Subject: Comments on CALFED Bay-Delta Program Draft Alternatives dated March 14, 1996 and the Alternative Appendix dated March 21, 1996

Dear Mr. Snow:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Draft Alternatives dated March 14, 1996 and the Alternative Appendix dated March 21, 1996. Informal comments have been provided to your staff at a variety of meetings. The Service has several concerns which need to be addressed as the program proceeds to refine alternative components and to analyze impacts of those actions on fish and wildlife. Enclosed to assist you and your staff with program development are our written comments.

We believe that the goal of ecosystem restoration should be to achieve a net gain in fish and wildlife resources over time, rather than merely slow the decline of species or stabilize existing population levels and that the programs preferred/selected alternative should reflect this goal. Although the environmental impact statement will be programmatic in nature, the existing baseline will need to be carefully defined, program components and their operations will need to be in sufficient detail to analyze their effects on fish and wildlife, and unproven technology must be used with care both in making assumptions for impact analysis and in attributing benefits. In addition, alternatives or their components should not further degrade the existing conditions within the Bay-Delta nor transfer significant impacts to other geographical areas or habitats.

The cooperative interaction with you and your staff to date is appreciated and we anticipate working together to prepare an environmental document which will enable each of our agencies to make difficult management decisions in the future concerning the Bay-Delta.

If you have questions, please contact Jean Elder at (916) 979-2733 or Mike Thabault at (916) 979-2752.

Sincerely,

Debra A. Milligan
Director

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Enclo To *Sharon Gross* From *Darcy*

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