Response to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Comments Dated July 9, 1996

Ecosystem Restoration Goals. We have a common program approach now that would enable implementation of ecosystem restoration program independent of others. The SB 900 would provide substantial money for ecosystem restoration work.

Delta Accord. It's assumed that each alternative would improve upon the conditions the Delta Accord Biological Opinions helped create. The actions have incorporated the recommendations contained in the Anadromous Fish Restoration Plan, Delta Native Fishes Recovery Plan, and the Salt Marsh, Harvest Mouse, and California Clapper Rail Recovery Plan.

Modifications to the Water Quality Control Plan would not be a purpose of the CALFED Bay Delta Process.

The paragraphs concerning take limits have been eliminated.

Unproven Technology. We realize that some technology and environmental benefits have not been proven.

A. Real Time Monitoring. Limitations of real-time monitoring have been adequately addressed.

B. Restoration of Shallow Water Habitat to Increase Fish Populations. We will clarify that flows to ensure functioning habitat are necessary for habitat restoration to be effective.

We need the Service's assistance in developing at lease a qualification method. If we set goals and implement actions to restore shallow-water habitat, we will have some type of criteria to measure benefits to fish.

It is assumed that increasing habitat may or may not result in increased fish production.

C. Barriers. We will evaluate a No-Barrier alternative.

D. Fisheries Management. Issues on marking of hatchery fish and the assumption for effectiveness of restoration program on wild fish have been addressed.

We will coordinate management of striped bass with CDFG, NMFS, and the Service.

We are currently working on screening criteria. The Interagency Fish Facility Technical Team is developing recreational and research needs.

We recognize the need to include restoration of the San Joaquin River fishery and preference of natural production over hatchery. We will evaluate adequacy of natural production and impacts of hatchery production.

Phased Implementation. Non-structural actions that can best meet program objectives would be implemented first. We would use Prospect Island for adaptive management. Analysis of structural components impacts will be done to the best of CALFED's ability. We will coordinate continued input from all agencies involved.

Concerning the comment that alternatives to expand pumping ability should not negate restoration benefits: our goal is to meet all program objectives.

Level of Detail. Level of detail is difficult for a PEIS. The draft EIS/EIR will identify a preferred alternative.

Many of the questions raised here will be addressed in the Phase II analysis.

Outflow/X2. Our goal is ecosystem recovery. Please see attached Ecosystem Restoration Strategy.

We will evaluate a range of increased flow in the San Joaquin River, though increased flow of higher than 100 TAF may be difficult. The 100 TAF figure was used because there is a historical record of obtaining that much.

Effects of alternatives on X2 will be examined.

Capture of Flood Flows. We are currently analyzing the capture of flood flow concept. We need substantial biological input from the Service and other agencies to identify "safe" times. By-passes for storage and water supply uses would be to the extent that flood control uses are not impaired.

Impact Analysis. We are considering multiple species in our impact analysis.

Ground Water Regulation.

Reference Quantified Numbers. We can provide the separate documents which account for the quantified items.

Dilution of Pollution. The Service's help in this component would be appreciated.

Water Banking. We will need substantial input from the Service in framing implementation parameters.

Conversion of Habitat. We will need input from the Service in identifying areas of concern and contingency plans.

Mitigation measures for affected species will be included.

The specific issues in paragraph 3 of this section will be addressed in Phase II and beyond.

Most of the alternatives that appear to sacrifice Sacramento and Feather River resources to benefit the San Joaquin River resources have been

Land Retirement. We have limited the amount of land retirement to.

We are considering the effect of land retirement on wildlife.

Water Transfers. We will consider water transfer options.

In-Delta Storage. We will need input from the Service as to how feasible this option is, and its limitations, benefits, and environmental impacts.

North and South of Delta Storage. The issues raised here have been addressed.

Duel Conveyance. We agree with your comment here.

Isolated Facilities. The specific issues of this section will be addressed in Phase II with more detail.

Assurances.