

The Resources Agency

Gray Davis
Governor



Mary D. Nichols
Secretary

of California

California Conservation Corps • Department of Boating & Waterways • Department of Conservation
Department of Fish & Game • Department of Forestry & Fire Protection • Department of Parks & Recreation • Department of Water Resources

September 26, 2000

Mr. Ronald Gastelum
General Manager
Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153

Dear Mr. Gastelum:

This letter is in response to your questions and concerns regarding implementation of the water quality program of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

As you know, the Framework Agreement and Record of Decision direct the CALFED agencies to undertake one of the most ambitious water quality and watershed management programs in the nation. CALFED proposes investing nearly \$1 billion in water quality and watershed management programs in the first seven years, and has established specific goals and milestones to measure success and to provide accountability. Let me assure you that implementation of the water quality program - and improving water quality for the 22 million Californians who depend on the Delta for their supplies - will remain a key element of the overall plan.

I understand that some of your member agencies and staff have questioned CALFED's commitment to water quality exchanges, including those under discussion between Metropolitan Water District (MWD) and the Friant Water Users. Again, because these exchanges are essential to meet our water quality goals, the Record of Decision includes specific commitments and milestones for these exchanges that will be subject to the annual review and balancing process by the Governor and the Secretary of Interior. In addition, the Department of Water Resources has proposed to allocate over \$175 million this year from Proposition 13 for water quality and water supply reliability projects, including \$20 million to support MWD's Water Quality Exchange Partnership.

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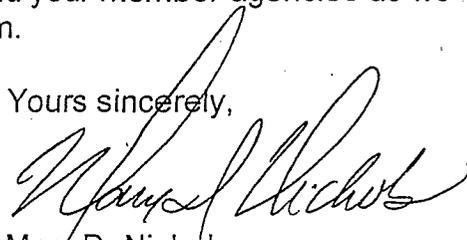
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In the Record of Decision and other CALFED documents, water quality exchanges are described as "complementary actions" to ensure that the Final EIR/S - and implementation of the other key elements of the CALFED Program - would not be delayed until the environmental review of these projects has been completed. These and other complementary actions will require additional environmental review, but should not trigger a revision to the programmatic EIS/R, provided that they are consistent with the preferred alternative in the Record of Decision.

I hope this addresses your key concerns. As you know, these unprecedented commitments to public investments in water quality will not continue to be possible without broad-based support for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. I look forward to working with you and your member agencies as we begin the implementation phase of the Program.

Yours sincerely,



Mary D. Nichols
Secretary for Resources