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September 20, 1999

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE CENTER

Lester Snow
Executive Director
CalFed Bay/Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street
Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: CALFED

Dear Executive Director Snow,

The Environmental Defense Center (EDC) is a non-profit public interest environmental law firm that represents community organizations in California's South Central Coast. The EDC works hard to insure natural resources including creeks, riparian habitats, marine habitats, and anadromous fisheries are protected. We are concerned that CALFED's draft plan neglects the most environmentally and economically sound solutions (conservation, better management of our groundwater and watersheds, tertiary waste water reclamation, desalination, and pollution prevention) which would ensure that California's magnificent steelhead and salmon runs and high-quality drinking water are protected.

The EDC would like the following comments to be entered into the formal record for the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report and Statement. The CALFED Bay/Delta program should be revised to: focus on protecting and restoring California's rivers, fisheries, bays, and the land surrounding these bodies of water in order to protect fresh water flows; focus on preventing pollution at the source so that water quality for people and wildlife will improve; and not commit to building any new or expanded dams, reservoirs, water diversion projects or canals during CALFED's "Stage 1". The program should not use taxpayers dollars to subsidize new or expanded dams, reservoirs, diversions, or canals. The public wants to see tax money being spent on projects which benefit society and environmental qualities not on projects which degrade California's natural resources.

The CalFed Bay/Delta program should be working with the environment not against it. Dams, reservoirs, diversions, and canals all work against the environment by altering natural processes of rivers, streams, fisheries, and bays. These man made structures are leading to the deterioration of water quality for humans and wildlife. Taking an ecological approach to resource protection is the best way to ensure California has fresh water today and in the future and EDC would support that direction. Thank you for your consideration.

906 GARDEN ST, SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101 • (805) 963-1622 FAX: (805) 962-3152 E-MAIL: edc@rain.org
31 N. OAK ST, VENTURA, CA 93001 • (805) 643-6147 FAX: (805) 643-6148 E-MAIL: edcvent@west.net

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Sincerely,

Brian Trautwein

Brian Trautwein
Environmental Analyst

cc: Governor Gray Davis
Assembly Member Hannah-Beth Jackson