

CORNING WATER DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 738, CORNING, CA 96021

September 23, 1999

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

RE: CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM
Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report

Dear Mr. Snow:

CORNING WATER DISTRICT is a Central Valley Project water user in the northern Sacramento Valley, as such, we are very concerned with the direction CALFED appears to be heading, especially with the Record of Decision now less than a year away. The following comments are offered based on our review of the PEIS/EIR.

It is critical that CALFED re-direct its focus and return to the programs initial objective to provide reliable, high quality water to all Californians, while maintaining a healthy environment. The current proposal does not address the critical water supply/quality needs of a rapidly growing California.

The preferred alternative does not provide any new water for our region, and in fact, advocates that water and land be removed from agriculture to compensate for problems we did not create, nor do we compound. Remember, while our region is perceived to have an abundance of water, during drought conditions our water supplies are not adequate to meet our agricultural or environmental needs. We ask that the CALFED solution honor the "Area of Origin" protection-"a past generation's "assurance" to future generations.

CORNING WATER DISTRICT asks that CALFED provide assurances that all aspects of water management, including **new surface storage** will be implemented with equal emphasis. We are concerned that the Integrated Storage Investigation as outlined, simply means storage will be "studied" to avoid the real issue of developing additional water supply. The environment and the citizens of California will assume the risks associated with CALFED delaying development of new surface storage until "soft path" measures are satisfied.

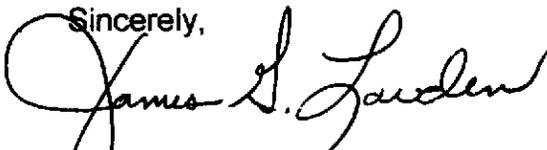
Sacramento Valley water use efficiency will not produce new water to satisfy Bay-Delta needs. We are concerned that CALFED's expected benefits are unrealistic. It appears that CALFED is seeking punitive actions against "non-compliant" water users to create unwarranted restrictions and economic hardship. CALFED must avoid advocating crop control and/or land fallowing as a method of securing water from the Sacramento Valley.

CALFED must develop federal, state, and local agency coordination, summarize existing regulatory programs, and develop a coordinated plan that address conflicts between the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Central Valley Project Improvement Act.

We urge that you consider these critical issues as you develop solutions to satisfy the environmental and water supply problems of the Bay-Delta. There are actions defined that address environmental protection and benefit Delta exporters. We need specific assurances of additional surface storage and water supply reliability for the Sacramento Valley. The north state ecosystem and economy must not be sacrificed to repair damages we did not create.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James G. Lowden". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

James G. Lowden
General Manager