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September 11, 2003

Ms. Sammie Cervantes
Bureau of Reclamation, MP-140
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento California 95825

Dear Ms. Cervantes:

On July 14, 2003, the draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) covering the operation of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program's Environmental Water Account (EWA) was made available for public review and comment. Five public workshops were held in July to discuss the purpose and content of the draft EIS/EIR and answer questions on the documents. Three public hearing were held in August to provide the public with an opportunity to orally comment on the draft EIS/EIR. Written comments on the draft EIS/EIR are to be submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation or Department of Water Resources no later than Monday, September 15, 2003.

As you know, the draft EIS/EIR and accompanying documents are quite voluminous and comprehensive. While we reviewed the documents, we need additional time to fully analysis the draft documents and prepare appropriate comments for your consideration. Discussions with our members have disclosed that they also need additional time to complete their analysis and provide comprehensive comments on the draft EIS/EIR.

Accordingly, on behalf of the members of the Central Valley Project Water Association, we are requesting an extension of the review and comment period on the subject draft EIS/EIR of at least ninety days. Assuming this request is granted, the written comments would be due to you no later than December 14, 2003.

Thank you for consideration of this very important matter. Please feel to call me if you would like to further discuss this request.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Stackhouse
Manager, Central Valley Project Water Association

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