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24 February 2004

Patrick Wright, Executive Director
California Bay-Delta Authority
650 Capitol Mall, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Gary Hunt, Chairman
California Bay-Delta Advisory Committee
c/o California Strategies, L.L.C.
18800 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 190
Irvine, CA 92612

Dear Mr. Wright and Mr. Hunt:

Re: The Delta Wetlands Feasibility Study

Ducks Unlimited supports a balanced implementation of the CalFed Bay-Delta Program. As the largest private wetland organization in the World, our highest priorities are wetlands and associated habitat restoration for the benefit of waterfowl, as well as other wetland-dependent wildlife and people.

We understand that the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) recently released a state feasibility study of the In-Delta Storage Project. This report found the project technically feasible. The ecosystem restoration and habitat benefits of this project are of interest to Ducks Unlimited. The proposal calls for 9000 acres on two islands to be set aside permanently as wetland and wildlife habitat, forming a mosaic of grassland, wetland, and riparian habitats. These areas could support a variety of wildlife, including migratory waterfowl.

We encourage the Authority to move forward with its review of the In-Delta Storage Project. Thank you for your leadership in advancing the CalFed Bay-Delta Program.

Sincerely,

Frederic A. Reid, Ph.D.
Director of Conservation Planning

cc: Jeremy Arrich, Dept. of Water Resources

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