



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

AUG 13 1999

Mr. Richard Milanovich
Chairman
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
600 East Tahquitz Canyon Way
Palm Springs, California 92262

Dear Chairman Milanovich:

I would like to invite you or your designee to attend a government-to-government consultation with Federal and California officials on the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. The consultation will be held at 1:00 p.m. on September 2, at the Army Corps of Engineers office in San Francisco, 333 Market Street, in rooms 819a and b. We have scheduled this consultation for the day following the Environmental Protection Agency's Regional Tribal Operations Committee meeting in San Francisco.

The CALFED Bay Delta Program is developing a comprehensive natural resource plan to address water and related concerns associated with the California's Sacramento River - San Joaquin River - San Francisco Bay Delta (Bay-Delta). The Program recently distributed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report that assesses several alternative strategies to restore the ecological health of the Bay-Delta and its tributaries, improve water quality and water supply reliability, and maintain Delta levees. If you did not receive a copy of the EIS/EIR and *Phase 2 Report*, which describe the program, we will provide you a copy.

The primary purposes of the meeting are: 1) to describe the CALFED Bay-Delta Program; 2) to discuss tribal resources, if any, that may be affected by the proposed CALFED Bay-Delta Program; and 3) to ascertain tribal governments' interests in and processes for participating in the Program. The Program will create opportunities for ecosystem restoration and enhance water resource management. Because we have not determined the extent to which particular tribal assets will be affected, we are inviting all California tribes.

We hope that you or a designee can attend. Please notify Robin Jenkins at the CALFED Bay-Delta Program office (phone: 916/657-2666) regarding who will represent your tribe at the meeting or to receive a copy of reports.

Sincerely,

Patricia J. Beneka
Assistant Secretary
for Water and Science