

October 27, 2003

To: Ron Ott                      ronott@calwater.ca.gov

From: Alex Hildebrand        hildfarm@gte.net

I am responding to your 10/22 e-mail to SDFP members. Unfortunately I will not be at the 11/3 meeting due to an out of state trip. Please consider the following comments.

The protection of fish must be done compatibly with other CALFED objectives. CALFED's proposed increase in SWP export rates to 8500 cfs, plus a net increase in exports resulting from the CVP-SWP intertie will require protection of the in-channel water supply in the South and Central Delta including water level, water depth, and compliance with salinity and dissolved oxygen standards. (The current draft EIR/EIS for the SDIP does not meet these standards). Water quality in these channels can not be controlled without maintaining a net unidirectional flow upstream of barriers in Old River, Grantline Canal, and Middle River. Furthermore, the DO standard in the Ship Channel will not be met without an adequate minimum inflow to that channel. Negotiations between export interests and the South and Central Delta Water Agencies have included agreement that these protections are essential to protection of the in-channel water supply which must be achieved in order for CALFED's proposed export rates to be allowed. Protection of fish and the above channel water supply protections must, therefore, be compatibly achieved. Furthermore, when unidirectional flow is restored in the above channels it can also be considered and augmented for dispersal of screened fish.

The proposals by the fish forum should be evaluated with regard to how fish can best be protected compatibly with meeting these other objectives. My recent memo to you proposed tests to verify or refute prior assumptions on the effect of increased Ship Channel flows on delta smelt.