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AUG 1 2 1999

Aug 11, 1999

Lester Snow
CalFed Executive Director
14161 Ninth St #1155
Sacramento CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

I have been following with some interest CalFed's revised draft plan for the Sacramento River Watershed. As a Franciscan Friar, I am very concerned about the loss of wild habitat for native threatened and endangered species. I am convinced that government agencies should take no actions which would undermine efforts to restore their habitat. As a wild river runner, I actively oppose any notion of damming more California rivers.

Specifically, I urge you to adopt a CalFed plan that would maximize water efficiency. It makes no sense to destroy wild habitat while humans are simply wasting water. CalFed should remove barrier dams, increase instream flows, and acquire riparian and riverine habitat. Furthermore, I don't believe raising existing dams and creating offstream storage reservoirs cannot be justified. Too many water interests receive unrealistically subsidized government water, and these should be corrected before any more wildlands are degraded.

I have heard too many sermons in church about our need to practice better stewardship of our Mother Earth for me to ignore the problems in the CalFed process. I hope that you hear some of these same sermons and can take them to heart as you guide it.

Sincerely,

Br. Keith Warner OFM