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JAMES R. PARKER, JR.
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August 31, 1999

COPY

Mr. Mark Bergstrom
Executive Director
California Trout
870 Market Street, Suite 859
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Your August 20, 1999 CALFED Appeal

Dear Mr. Bergstrom:

I am NOT with you, Mark!

I have been a member of Cal Trout for more than 25 years. I have answered many appeals for money above and beyond annual dues. I have been proud of Cal Trout's achievements in re-watering Mono Lake's tributaries, getting DF&G to adopt a wild trout program and appropriate fishing regulations, Cal Trout's participation in FERC relicensing of power diversions and Forest Service Management plans. Cal Trout has distinguished itself by its well-reasoned, scientifically based but usually low-key, sleeves rolled up approach to solving problems, often working with the opposition in crafting reasonable compromises to complex problems. However, your CALFED appeal does not make me proud of Cal Trout.

I worked with Dick May and Herb Joseph trying to stop Dry Creek Dam in the early 1970's. While some dams are bad dams, not all dams are bad. If all dams are bad, lets start with removing San Francisco's own Hetch Hetchy Dam! Enlarging some existing dams so that the State Water Project ("SWP") can meet its contractual commitments is far preferable than building new dams. Explain to me how enlarging off-stream impoundments such as Los Vaqueros is going to "poison rivers and streams?" The ultimate irony of the current situation is that if the State had built the Peripheral Canal, fewer of the additional storage facilities being discussed today in the CALFED process would be needed.

As a farmer from the south half of the State, I don't like being called an "agribusiness giant" who "wastes" water while being "subsidized" by taxpayers. In fact, the exact opposite is true. My water costs over $200 an acre foot. My orchards are on drip. Not a drop is wasted. The taxpayer - owned SWP is in breach of its water supply contracts

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because it has not built the storage and delivery systems authorized by the voters in November 1960. Further, the Federal Government has violated both the CVPIA and the Monterey Accords by taking from us farmers our contract entitlements and giving our water to endangered species. While the Government cuts deliveries to us farmers, we farmers continue to have to pay the bonded indebtedness for the SWP delivery system and for our own local water districts' delivery systems. We have hocked our farmland for the promise of water. The truth is, Mark, that the Government has stolen farmers' water to subsidize endangered species. What has happened to the principle that private property cannot be taken by the government except upon payment of just compensation?

I am disappointed that Cal Trout apparently has decided to become a puppet of the environmental extremists, rather than exercising its own independent judgment on CALFED. Apparently, the new leadership of Cal Trout intends to convert Cal Trout into just another San Francisco based radical environmental organization, mouthing simplistic slogans and engaging in inflammatory rhetoric.

I urge Cal Trout to "GET OUT IN FRONT" of the CALFED process by supporting the most environmentally sound solution to California's water distribution problem - build a peripheral canal. We need clean, clear, cold free-flowing water getting around and through the Delta to improve water quality in the Delta and get more water into San Luis Reservoir so as to avoid building the new dams you oppose. Unless you want to reduce your membership to Bay Area environmental extremists only, Cal Trout needs to support the CALFED process and be a constructive player in solving California's water distribution problems.

Again, Mark, a lot of your membership, including me, is not with you on this issue.

Very truly yours,

James R. Parker, Jr.

JRP/gjm

cc: Richard May
Lester Snow

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