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SEP 1 0 1999

Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

September 8, 1999

Dear Mr. Snow:

I am deeply disturbed by the draft plan recently issued by your agency in which you propose to build twelve new dams in California. In my opinion, this is the last thing we need. The people of California do need reliable sources of water, but there are cheaper and more effective ways to accomplish this goal. We also need free-running rivers and streams in order to maintain our unique quality of life.

It seems to me that your agency has placed the welfare of the agribusiness interests above the welfare of the vast majority of the people of this state. I am from a family of farmers, and I understand their special needs. They are a very important part of this state's economy. However, I believe that continued subsidization of agriculture is a big mistake, especially when we sacrifice our precious wilderness and wildlife to it. Let free market forces direct us to greater efficiencies. In particular, conservation of water supplies (why are we putting flooded rice paddies in the middle of arid valleys? That's crazy!) Ground water storage should also be considered as an effective and much less expensive means of providing water.

Dams have never been proven to offer much economic benefit. They are incredibly expensive to build and maintain, but most importantly, they are incredibly destructive to ecosystems. I urge you not to destroy our precious rivers and streams with your CALFED plan.

Please write me back to let me know how you stand on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Eric A. Wardrip, MD
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Encinitas, CA 92024