SEP 17 1999 0939

September 15, 1999

CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento CA 95814

Attn.: Mr. Rick Breitenbach

Dear Calfed:

We here at Altacal Audubon Society are very concerned about what happens to North Sacramento Valley water. Without sufficient water, native plants and animals suffer first , but people and our economy will also be profoundly affected. We believe that the future of water management in our area lies in WATER CONSERVATION. There are environmentally friendly ways of capturing and storing water through watershed restoration instead of more dams and reservoirs. In the long run, conservation is a cheaper and wiser solution. A program to encourage homeowners to reduce lawns and plant more low-water maintenance vegetation is one badly needed possibility in our area and perhaps all over the state.

An additional approach to the water problem would be to require logging practices and residential development projects to protect rather than degrade watersheds as is so often the case at the present time.

Third, there is a great need to reduce the use of pesticides, toxics, and other pollutants in our streams and rivers. There is little regulation of the use of these substances by homeowners, and their use continues to expand as is evident by viewing the large stock of pollutants on the shelves of every nursery. The Calfed Bay-Delta Program could play a larger role in the control and use of these harmful substances that are so detrimental to people as well as wildlife.

As much as we are vitally interested in restoring the bay and the delta, we wish to see this done in an environmentally protective way for all of northern California. In the future our area, through current and projected rapid population growth, will need a great deal more water than is used presently. We believe it is shortsighted to permit surface water sales while pumping ground water to compensate.

Sincerely,

Beverly N. Chiñas

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Conservation Chair
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