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CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM

SEP 23 1999

# Public Comment

Date September 20, 1999

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program welcomes your participation. Please use the space below for your written comments (attach additional sheets if necessary).

Comments:

The agencies that are CALFed happen to have responsibilities for over-sight on public land management, fish & wildlife, and their habitats. That being said, it makes sense why CalFed's preferred proposal is so focused on habitat, fish, wildlife, and water conveyance. For these same reasons CalFed doesn't place higher priority to improving water storage statewide.

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I have heard far too many stories and reports where a few fish, a couple lizards, some rodents, a bug, or even a flower have brought hardship and/or financial ruin to hundreds and thousands of people as the case may be. If these new found priorities were in place a hundred years ago this state would still be a desert and would not be the worlds sixth leading exporter of agricultural products. In fact, if California was a country it would rank in the top ten economies in the world. Water has had a major role in this development.

The agencies of CalFed have each been negligent in their respective management responsibilities with our existing resources. What you are offering is a band-aid approach to a growing problem. Either tell people to leave California or start, today, improving our water storage capacities. Wildlife and habitats <u>will</u> adapt to these changes if properly managed. We can not progress beyond our water problems if you go the course recommended by the environmental extremists.

Around the state we have problems with flooding from watershed run-off during most non-drought years due to the inadequacy of our current water storage capacity. There would be an adequate water supply to meet everyone's needs if we captured and more effectively managed our surface storage. People, as well as wildlife and their habitats are imperilled during periods of preventive flood releases because of <u>our</u> <u>insufficient</u> surface water storage capacity.

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All of your best intended conveyance systems and habitat restoration projects will all be for naught if proposal bankrupts this state. In a few years the only ones left to thank you for not improving storage will be a few bugs, a couple rodents, if not eaten by the kit foxes and coyotes, and maybe that flower that no one knows what its for.

Please improve the storage NOW.

Sincerely,

Kim Mckiwaugh

Assistant Ag Commissioner/Sealer