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Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 9th Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

re: Comment on CALFED Draft EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Snow,

I served on the San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission for eleven years before I relocated to Sacramento. I also served as a member of a Technical Advisory Committee on hydromodification, wetlands, and riparian areas as part of the joint effort of the State Water Quality Control Board Board to improve California's NPS program. Consequently, I have some familiarity with the complexity of California's water issues. I admire CalFed for making a good faith effort.

I have major concerns about CALFED's proposal for construction of new "off-stream" dams and reservoirs, and concerns about pressure from organized agriculture for even more on-stream dams and reservoirs.

California's waters have been extensively dammed and diverted. The result has been great prosperity for Californians, and major environmental damage which is worsening.

California's growth has reached the limits of its water supply. There has been alot of talk about conservation during the past ten years, but serious implementation of urban water conservation has been very limited. The best example of water conservation has been the Los Angeles Dept of Water and Power -- motivated by the obvious limits of its water entitlements from the Colorado River and the Eastern Sierra. In most other communities, notably the Central Valley, Bay Area, and Sacramento, talk of water conservation became obsolete when normal winters resumed. Proposals for water conservation which require water meters or increased charges for large water users where there are meters have met with stiff local political resistance.
The development community is notably resistant to any limits on water use. As we know, the development community effectively controls local government (and perhaps State government also) by means of large political campaign contributions.

Construction of new dams and reservoirs, whether on-stream or off-stream, will have the following effect:

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1. Worsening environmental deterioration resulting from increased diversions, as well as the damage caused by the new dams and reservoirs.

2. Accelerated urban sprawl, fueled by the hallucination of unlimited water supply now and forever, and with no mechanism or physical infrastructure to facilitate water conservation.

3. Public perception of unlimited water, and removal of any political will or economic incentive for water conservation.

This will last maybe ten years, and then California will again be in a water crunch due to new suburban growth induced by the belief of unlimited water supply; but with fewer options for solutions, accelerating and probably irreversible environmental damage, and yet more suburban sprawl without any infrastructure for water conservation.

If new reservoirs are created, the incentive for water conservation will vanish. Local government, water purveyors, and the private sector have historically done nothing for water conservation except when there were no other options.

In the early 1970's, the so-called "gasoline crisis" and serious concerns about vehicle-created pollution caused the Federal government to require substantially improved vehicle fuel mileage (conservation) and cleaner gasoline. The industry vigorously objected and said it "couldn't be done". Of course it was done, and with substantial success.

You are now being told that water conservation can't be done, and that you must approve more dams and reservoirs which will worse environmental damage, remove any incentive for water conservation, and fuel suburban sprawl planned without regard for water conservation or infrastructure for water conservation.

I strongly urge CALFED to exercise both vision and political courage; and solve the problem by **vetoing any more dams and reservoirs** and **focusing on development of an effective statewide water conservation program.** There is no other long-term solution.

Very Truly Yours,

James P. Pachl