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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 31, 2005

Mr. Ed Winkler
Executive Director
Regional Water Authority
5620 Birdcage Street, #180
Citrus Heights, California 95610

Dear Mr. Winkler,

Thank you for your recent letter expressing concern over the possibility of a broad-based user fee to help fund the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

The recently released public review draft of the California Water Plan recognizes CALFED as one of the prominent water management strategies throughout the State that must be developed, maintained and financed to meet the needs of California's future generations. The CALFED Program plays an important role in meeting California's future water needs. I have directed the Secretary for Resources to work with the Secretaries for Food and Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Chair of the California Bay-Delta Authority to develop a long-term strategy for stable water resource investment funding that is both reliable and fiscally responsible.

In addition, I have called for a 10-year action plan for CALFED, to be developed in coordination with stakeholders and our federal partners. This action plan must focus on solving the highest priority Delta issues, balance statewide actions with regional water management, and include funding from the state, federal and local levels consistent with the beneficiaries-pay principle. This plan will include payments from water users to the Ecosystem Restoration Program and other programs, but in proportion to the direct benefits received.

We are all stewards of the State's resources and protectors of its promise for future generations. I appreciate your concern and look forward to working with you on these and other issues.

Sincerely,


Arnold Schwarzenegger