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May 8, 2002

California State Senate

MICHAEL J. MACHADO
SENATOR, FIFTH DISTRICT



*XC:Wright
Dan R*

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AND STATE LEGISLATION

Patrick Wright
Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Dear Mr. Wright:

I am writing to respectfully request the CALFED Bay-Delta Program reconsider its decision and approve the funding request by the State Reclamation Board for the two-dimensional detailed hydraulic model for determining flood conveyance impacts of ecosystem restoration projects in the Yolo Bypass.

The \$635,000 project will develop a hydraulic modeling process that will assist governmental entities in making land use decisions in the Yolo Bypass, especially when creating new wetlands for the Vic Fazio Yolo Wildlife Area. The hydraulic modeling will assist in restoring wildlife habitat in the floodplain without negatively impacting flood conveyance, not only within the Bypass, but also within the Sacramento River watershed.

This hydraulic modeling process fits into CALFED's Ecosystem Restoration and Watershed Management Program that seeks to improve the health of the Bay-Delta system through restoring and protecting habitats and native species.

Again, I ask that CALFED approve this project for funding.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL J. MACHADO
Senator, Fifth District

MJM:bk

Cc: Peter Rabbon, State Reclamation Board
Robin Kulakow, Yolo Basin Foundation

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Assembly California Legislat

HELEN MACLEOD THOMS
 ASSEMBLYWOMAN, EIGHTH DISTRICT
 CHAIR, ASSEMBLY HEALTH COMMITTEE

May 3, 2002

Patrick Wright
 Director, CALFED Bay Delta Program
 1416 Ninth Street
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SRB Propo

Dear Patrick:

I am writing to urge that CALFED reconsider funding the proposal submitted by the State Reclamation Board to develop a hydraulic model of the Yolo Bypass. Too many important projects depend on this proposed hydraulic model for it to be tabled or delayed at this juncture.

The Yolo Basin Foundation was involved in the first model of the Yolo Bypass that was funded by Congress in the early 1990s and we know first hand how important hydraulic modeling is to making land use decisions in the Bypass: Creation of additional habitat in the Yolo Bypass could have both parcel-specific and cumulative effects on the flood conveyance capacity. A hydraulic model as proposed would be the assessment tool needed to provide stakeholders in the Bypass with the information they need. Without a hydraulic model the specific habitat restoration recommendations of the Sacramento River Flood Control Project Comprehensive Study and the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program for the North Delta cannot progress. The practical result would be to stop all projects now in process in the Bypass.

Furthermore, when the Wildlife Conservation Board purchased 12,000 acres to greatly expand the Yolo Wildlife Area last year, an assurance was given by the Department of Fish and Game that restoration of habitat on the new lands would not negatively impact the flood conveyance of the Bypass. Fish and Game, currently in the early stages of developing a management plan as required for any changes in land use, is depending on the availability of the proposed hydraulic model to meet this assurance.

The proposed North Delta National Wildlife Refuge would exist entirely within the Yolo Bypass. The same requirements of no negative impacts to flood conveyance would also apply to habitat restoration activities by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The proposed hydraulic model is the key to avoiding negative impacts of this proposal to flood conveyance.

The Yolo Basin Foundation, Department of Water Resources, and Natural Heritage Institute are currently finishing a feasibility study of potential projects to improve fish

CHAIR

*Please replace the
 previous letter with
 this version. Slightly
 amended by the author.
 Thank you!*



habitat in the Yolo Bypass. These projects also will require hydraulic modeling to avoid negative impacts to flood conveyance.

Proposal #32 is a broad-based collaboration: The Yolo Basin Foundation was involved in early discussions. The State Reclamation Board, as the permitting agency in the Bypass is well suited to managing the development of the model and its future use. The proposal also involves the Corps of Engineers, another key player in land use planning in the Yolo Bypass, and recognizes the need for private consultants to work on the development of the model. Because hydraulic modeling of specific projects is expensive for most project proponents and will dramatically increase the time to implement all proposed projects, development of the model by the flood protection agencies is the recommended path to take.

I join the Yolo Basin Foundation and others in urging immediate support of the State Reclamation Board proposal. The proposed hydraulic model is a key assessment tool for any future ecosystem restoration work in the Yolo Bypass. Perhaps remaining technical questions could be resolved in a meeting of reviewers and proponents. Many entities are awaiting the information. Without timely CALFED action, work on much-needed projects will be delayed indefinitely.

Sincerely,



HELEN M. THOMSON

HT:ef



County of Yolo

625 Court Street, Room 204 Woodland, California 95695 (530) 666-8195 FAX (530) 666-8193

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

May 7, 2002

Patrick Wright, Director
CALFED Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento CA 95814

MAY 14 2002

First District - Mike McGowan
Second District - Lois Wolk
Third District - Tom Stallard
Fourth District - Dave Rosenberg
Fifth District - Lynnei Pollock
County Administrator - Victor Singh
Clerk of the Board - Patty Crittenden

Dear Mr. Wright:

**SUBJECT: Reconsideration of Funding for Development of a Hydraulic Model
For the Yolo Bypass by the State Reclamation Board**

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors of Yolo County, this letter is being submitted in support of the request by the Yolo Basin Foundation that CALFED reconsider funding of the two-dimensional detailed hydraulic model of the Yolo Bypass submitted as a proposal by the State Reclamation Board.

The Bypass is a valuable environmental and economic resource to Yolo County that provides the opportunity for ecosystem restoration, as evidenced by the Vic Fazio Yolo Wildlife. However, the primary purpose of the Bypass remains to be recognized as flood control management. In the development of A Framework for the Future: Yolo Bypass Management Strategy, the Yolo Bypass Working Group, composed of landowners, farmers, hunters, agency representatives (including the County) and others, has identified the assessment and mitigation of hydraulic and hydrologic impacts on stakeholder lands in the Bypass as a major issue. The State Reclamation Board has determined that the proposed hydraulic model would provide the assessment tool needed to pursue having this issue addressed. However, the costs of such modeling can often be prohibitive for a single project proponent such as the Basin Foundation.

The County recognizes the proposal by the State Reclamation Board, as the permitting agency in the Bypass, to be a feasible and cost effective approach to addressing the habitat restoration/flood control issues and concerns expressed by local stakeholders. Support of the proposed modeling would also afford the County the opportunity to provide input into the analysis of ways to consider development of habitat restoration projects while avoiding negative impacts to flood conveyance. Therefore, your reconsideration of funding for the proposed modeling is requested.

Sincerely,


Dave Rosenberg, Chairman
Yolo County Board of Supervisors

*yolo basin foundation*

April 29, 2002

P.O. Box 943
Davis, California
95617
530 756 7248

Patrick Wright
Director, CALFED Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Reconsideration of funding for the Two-Dimensional Detailed Hydraulic Model for Determining Flood Conveyance Impacts of Ecosystem Restoration Projects in the Yolo Bypass.

Dear Patrick:

I am writing on behalf of the Yolo Basin Foundation Board of Directors to ask that CALFED reconsider funding of the proposal submitted by The State Reclamation Board to develop a hydraulic model of the Yolo Bypass.

The Yolo Basin Foundation was involved in requesting the funding for the first model (also known as the \$660k model) of the Yolo Bypass that was funded by Congress in the early 1990s. We know first hand how important hydraulic modeling is to making land use decisions in the Bypass. It was the development of this model and the subsequent analysis that drove the design ultimately used by the US Army Corps of Engineers in creating the wetlands of the Vic Fazio Yolo Wildlife Area. This design has proven successful in the goal of restoring wildlife habitat in the flood plain without negatively impacting flood conveyance.

Three years ago the Yolo Basin Foundation organized the Yolo Bypass Working Group and we continue as the facilitator of the group. It is composed of landowners, farmers, hunters, agency representatives, and others, all with a direct interest in the Bypass. Last year the Yolo Bypass Working Group developed the document: A Framework for the Future: Yolo Bypass Management Strategy under a grant from the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program. Creation of additional habitat in the Yolo Bypass could have parcel-specific and cumulative effects on the flood conveyance capacity. Therefore, "Assessment and Mitigation of Hydraulic and Hydrologic Impacts" on stakeholder lands is a major issue identified by the Working Group. A hydraulic model as proposed by The Reclamation Board would be the assessment tool needed to provide stakeholders with the information they need.

The Yolo Basin Foundation recognizes the key role the Yolo Bypass plays as a part of the Sacramento River Flood Control Project. It will also play an important role in any flood protection projects that come out of the Comprehensive Study. Habitat restoration in the Yolo Bypass is essential to meeting specific goals of the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program for the North Delta. Without a hydraulic model the specific habitat restoration recommendations of both programs cannot progress.

Yolo Basin Foundation

Page 2

In August 2001, the Wildlife Conservation Board purchased 12,000 acres to expand the 3700-acre Yolo Wildlife Area. One of the assurances made by Fish and Game was that any restoration of habitat on the new lands would be not negatively impact the flood conveyance of the Bypass. Fish and Game is currently in the early stages of developing a Management Plan as required for any changes in land use. It is assumed that analysis of proposed land use changes would include the use of the proposed hydraulic model.

The proposed North Delta National Wildlife Refuge would exist entirely within the Yolo Bypass. The same requirements of no negative impacts to flood conveyance would also apply to habitat restoration activities by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The proposed hydraulic model will be key to avoiding negative impacts to flood conveyance.

The Yolo Basin Foundation, Department of Water Resources, and Natural Heritage Institute are currently finishing a feasibility study of potential projects to improve fish habitat in the Yolo Bypass. This project is funded by the Corps but meets habitat goals identified in the Calfed Ecosystem Restoration Program. One potential project includes modification of the Putah Creek channel where it enters the Putah Creek Sinks in the Yolo Bypass. This project will also require hydraulic modeling to avoid negative impacts to flood conveyance.

The Yolo Basin Foundation was involved in early discussions of the proposal under consideration. The State Reclamation Board is the permitting agency in the Bypass and as such is well suited to managing the development of the model and its future use. The proposal also involves the Corps, another key player in land use planning in the Bypass. The proposal recognizes the need for private consultants to work on the development of the model. Yolo Basin Foundation is identified as playing a role in stakeholder involvement in development of the model. Hydraulic modeling of specific projects is too expensive for most project proponents, not a cost effective approach for CALFED projects, and will dramatically increase the time to implement projects. So, development of the model by the flood protection agencies is the recommended path to take.

The Yolo Basin Foundation supports the State Reclamation Board proposal for the hydraulic model. It is a key assessment tool for any future ecosystem restoration work in the Yolo Bypass. Important habitat restoration work will be held up indefinitely without a working model. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Robin Kulakow
Executive Director

Cc: Yolo County Board of Supervisors, Assemblywoman Helen Thomson, Pete Rabbon, Betsy Marchand.