







additional groundwater and surface storage.

It is also important to encourage regional approaches with regard to these efforts, including regional self-sufficiency. However, it must also be recognized that water rights in areas of origin affect deliveries and that issue must be addressed in your Workplan.

As the Board attempts to address conservation goals of as much as 20%, we remind the Board that agricultural users should be required to make comparable efforts toward conservation. Additionally, the Board should refrain from applying this standard in a uniform manner for several reasons. First, urban water agencies through out the state have made widely variable efforts at conservation; requiring a 20% reduction from all of them would effectively punish the prior commitment, investment, and achievements of the leading agencies. In addition, agencies that have already made significant progress in conservation face a higher hurdle in achieving the 20% increment than those areas that have not yet taken steps to conserve..

This same perspective should be brought to any proposal for uniform reductions in diversions from the Delta watershed. In some cases, instream flow requirements have been carefully crafted for specific riparian and aquatic habitat goals, and incorporate aggressive levels of conservation to ensure those flows. Programs that have achieved documented success in ecosystem and habitat restoration should be rewarded, not penalized in the course of seeking improved conditions in the Delta.

We also want to call to your attention the importance of allocating funds from Propositions 84 and 1E for emergency response plans and for strengthening strategic Delta levees. The Board should recognize that certain levees provide essential protection for public safety and for critical infrastructure, and that these levees should receive priority for state funding. Given the potential crisis facing us should we experience an earthquake or flooding, it is imperative that these funds be allocated in a timely matter to avert a disaster.

As there are multiple ongoing efforts to address the Delta crisis and different strategic/ implementation plans, we ask, "Where is the clearinghouse to assure that these plans are integrated into one plan to develop a comprehensive solution that will protect the quality and environmental integrity of the Delta region?" We encourage your Board to be proactive and engaged in these Delta strategies and to ensure that the co-equal values of water quality and ecosystem health are part of any solution.

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations.

Sincerely,

Linda Best  
President and CEO