

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836
SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001
(916) 653-5791



April 9, 2003

Ms. Joan Wells, Board Director
California Water Network
1125 East Mountain Drive
Santa Barbara, California 93108

Dear Ms. Wells:

This is in response to your letter of October 28, 2002 commenting on the Draft State Water Project Delivery Reliability Report.

I agree that accurate and realistic estimates for water availability are vital to the economic health and quality of life of California's citizens. With this in mind, the Department of Water Resources has provided the public the best information currently available on the delivery ability of the State Water Project. Our intent is to promote understanding of the strengths and limitations of the information, encourage responsible local water resources planning, and assist SWP water contractors in responding to the requirements of land use planning laws made effective in 2002 (Chapters 642 and 643, Statutes of 2001).

The SWP Delivery Reliability Report will be finalized in the near future. We recognize that this is an ongoing process and plan to revise the report every two years or more frequently if circumstances require it. We commit to involving the public in the discussions and analyses regarding the sufficiency of CALSIM II. In addition, a peer review will be conducted by the CALFED Science Program to assess the adequacy of using CALSIM II for this purpose. We encourage the exploration of alternative methods of evaluating SWP delivery ability or different ways of using CALSIM II for this evaluation. DWR is committed to working with all interested parties with the expectation that the next report will have greater support.

Your letter incorporates by reference comments made by Robert Wilkinson and Dennis O'Connor. DWR's responses to all the letters commenting on the report are posted on the State Water Project Delivery Reliability Report web site (<http://swpdelivery.water.ca.gov>) and will be included in an appendix to the final report.

If you wish to discuss this further, please call Katherine Kelly, Chief of DWR's Bay-Delta Office, at (916) 653-1099. For technical information, please contact Francis Chung, Chief of DWR's Bay-Delta Office Modeling Support Branch, at (916) 653-5924.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Hannigan

Thomas M. Hannigan
Director