

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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



September 3, 2002

Mr. Sheldon G. Moore
7555 Herdlyn Road
Byron, California 94514-1607

Dear Mr. Moore,

This letter is in response to your August 19, 2002 letter requesting certain information about the South Delta Dredging Project, which DWR undertook in Year 2000. You first ask why DWR was involved in this program.

In 1999 and 2000, DWR sponsored a number of public workshops in the City of Tracy to update interested stakeholders on the status of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program's proposed South Delta Improvements Program. The SDIP proposes four permanent operable barriers in the south Delta to improve fishery conditions and improve water levels and circulation for local agricultural diverters as well as an increased diversion capacity at the State Water Project's Clifton Court Forebay. During those workshops, many boaters, marina owners and landowners expressed concern that the channels in the south Delta were becoming very shallow and that there was a need to do extensive dredging to correct the problem. As a result of this, CALFED proposed a dredging project in the south Delta, which DWR undertook in late 2000. All of the necessary State and federal regulatory permits were secured prior to the initiation of the project.

After a competitive bid process, the contract to conduct the dredging was awarded to Steelhead Constructors Incorporated of Palo Cedro. The total amount paid to the contractor was \$3,159,408. There were other internal costs for the project associated with preparation of environmental documentation, permitting, final design, contract preparation and contractor supervision which cannot easily be estimated.

The following permits were obtained prior to the initiation of the dredging project:

- Nationwide Permit 35 (Corps of Engineers Project #2000 00165)
- Nationwide Permit 16 (Corps of Engineers Project #2000 00165)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Biological Opinion for the Proposed Dredging of the South Delta (#1-1-00-F-139)
- Department of Fish and Game Streambed Alteration Agreement (Notification Number II-278-00)
- National Marine Fisheries Service's Letter of No Adverse Affect (I-SA-00-39:MCV), and

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- Waste Discharge Requirements (Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Resolution 82-036 (waiver) and WDR 5-00-183).

I hope this provides you with the information you requested. If you have any further questions you may contact Paul Marshall, Supervising Engineer, of my staff at (916) 653-2118.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Ford" with "for MAF" written in smaller letters to the right.

Mike Ford
Chief, South Delta Branch