



NEWS RELEASE

State Water Resources Control Board

98-13

For Immediate Release

Contact: SWRCB - Fran Vitulli

December 1, 1998

(916) 657-1247

Chairman of State Water Board Will Leave December 31

Sacramento - John Caffrey, Chairman of the State Water Resources Control Board, today announced he will leave the Board effective December 31. His resignation brings to a close a state service career spanning almost 32 years. According to Caffrey, future plans include "taking a vacation, spending more time with my family and pursuing other interests and endeavors."

Caffrey, 55, was appointed to the Board by Governor Deukmejian in February, 1990 where he served as a member until appointed Chairman by Governor Wilson in 1993. He was reappointed in 1994 and again in 1998.

Caffrey presided over the Board during a time of notable accomplishments, primary of which was its 1994 order amending the water right licenses of the City of Los Angeles in order to restore Mono Lake. The lake had been severely impaired from 40 years of diversion to the lake's major tributaries by the City.

In 1995, the Board adopted a water quality control plan for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the first plan for Delta protection accepted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in more than 17 years. This plan was largely the product of a planning process initiated by Caffrey which sought consensus from California's major water interests on Delta standards that would both improve aquatic habitat and water supply reliability. The Delta water rights hearing, currently in progress, is using the same consensus building effort, asking water interest representatives to prepare their own plans to meet Delta standards before facing the Board for consideration.

Under Caffrey's leadership, the Board approved water rights in 1994 for the Los Vaqueros Project in Contra Costa County, the first major dam built in California in a decade. During his tenure the Board also established a watershed management initiative which shifts the focus of water protection efforts from point source pollution to the many nonpoint pollution sources found throughout every California watershed.

A lifelong state employee, Caffrey came to the Board from the Department of Water Resources where he was Chief Deputy Director. Prior to that, he worked 13 years at the Department of Finance as the Department's representative to the legislative fiscal committees and as the

program budget manager for the State's environmental and natural resources programs. Before joining Finance, Caffrey served several years as budget officer for the State Park system.

#