



Lassen County Farm Bureau

P.O. BOX 151 TELEPHONE (916) 257-7242
SUSANVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96130

May 5, 1998

MAY 11 1998

Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

Lassen County Farm Bureau would like to offer the following comments on the CalFed Delta Program. Farmers in our county are very concerned about this proposal.

We realize that the projected population growth of California will require greater quantities of water. We feel this can best be accomplished by increasing water storage capacity. The proposed methods of conversion of farmland to other uses and redirection of agricultural water will devastate agriculture, the cornerstone of the state's economy where 1 out of 10 jobs are related to agriculture. While the CalFed plan mentions storage, no direct, mapable proposals are included. Increased water storage should be top priority in this process, it would benefit urban users, fisheries, as well as farmers.

CalFed must not interfere with existing water rights. Farmers throughout the state are dependent upon them for their livelihood. Rural communities cannot absorb more unemployment or loss of productive agricultural lands from their economies.

The CalFed proposal of a new "peripheral canal" causes concern. It is unclear what this transport component may be, but without increased water storage its usefulness will be limited by supply shortages. Further diversion of a currently inadequate water supply will not solve the problem. Conservation is quickly reaching its limit of effectiveness as its strategies have been in use for decades. While agriculture will continue to conserve water, the leap in demand comes from urban users and cannot be adequately met through conservation.

Farmers concerns must be fairly addressed in this process. This opportunity can be used to the benefit of urban and agricultural users by including a storage component and protecting water rights.

Lassen County Farm Bureau's 500 members would like to emphasize the need for stable water supplies for agriculture for the continued success of our farming families.

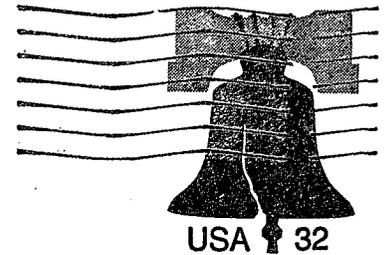
Sincerely,

Hannah Tangeman-Cheney

Hannah Tangeman-Cheney, President
Lassen County Farm Bureau

HTC:sm

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DEPARTMENT OF
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