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JUN 29 1998

June 25, 1998

Mr. Rick Breitenbach
CALFED Bay/Delta Program
1416 9th Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: CALFED Bay/Delta Program Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Breitenbach:

As a 35-year agricultural property owner in Colusa County, I have read the CALFED Bay/Delta Program Programmatic EIS/EIR with interest and amazement. If my interpretation of the bureaucratic jargon is correct it is the apparent intention of this program to somehow take water from agricultural diverters primarily to replace water pumped from the Delta. This is to be done under the misconception that better irrigation water management will somehow diminish the havoc reeked on the agricultural business community. The damage that could be done is accurately described in the EIS/EIR and need not be restated here. As a rice farmer and property owner, I want to assure you that existing irrigation practices are efficient. No water is wasted. Minimum necessary amounts of irrigation water are used, often severely diminishing water quality. In the rice industry water is too expensive to allow for inefficient use. Water management plans are already dedicated to the use of the minimum amount of water necessary to avoid damaging the crop. A diminished water supply will simply mean less farming.

Surely there is a solution to this problem that does not include taxing farmers out of business.

Under the Section 8,1.4.6 Mitigation Strategics I note the intention to provide advice to entities that are already running at a very high level of efficiency. There is a stated intention to seek other economic incentives that assumes Sacramento Valley residents function in a stagnant economic environment, bereft of ideas and capital. I assure you this is not the situation. Other suggested Mitigations amount to a government attempt to control free enterprise farming either through diminished water supply, subsidy or what appears to be a form of inverse condemnation. Abandoned Federal Programs indicate the perils of this policy. What will the legal costs be? Most amazing is the lack of any

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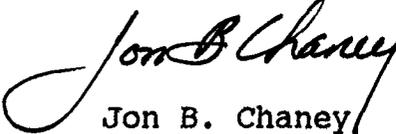
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provision for additional water storage. Surely the most obvious solution to water shortage is increased supply rather than a policy destructive to Agribusiness and the Sacramento Valley ecosystem.

In light of the recent Appeals Court decision regarding the Friant Dam/San Joaquin River litigation, is this EIR not premature? Will the underlaying suppositions regarding water sources not change?

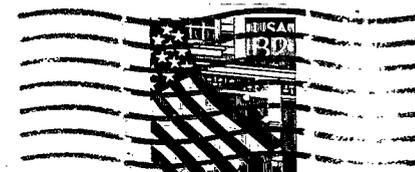
In summary, I believe that this draft EIS/EIR is naive and misdirected. If implemented the water plan will involve the blatant governmental expropriation of agricultural water for purposes of comparatively nonspecific and therefore questionable value.

Sincerely,


Jon B. Chaney

cc: Congressman Vic Fazio
Senator K. Maurice Johannessen
Assemblyman Tom Woods
Colusa County Board of Supervisors
Northern California Water Association
Association of California Water Agencies
California Chamber of Commerce Water Resources Committee
Regional Council of Rural Counties

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