

June 29, 1998

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Mr. Rick Breitenbach
CAL-FED Bay Delta Program
1216 Ninth St., Ste. 1155
Sacramento CA 95814

Dear Mr. Breitenbach,

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in the CAL-FED process. I have some questions about the analysis of alternatives regarding irrigation science and technology.

Assuming the major part of the \$1.5 Billion would be spent on the storage tanks, pumps and/or conveyance in the alternatives proposed to the public thus far, my question is, how far would that portion of the money go to do some combination of these conservation alternatives; and what would be the equivalent savings in water:

1. Subsidize drip irrigation systems for farming in Central Valley; on golf courses; in parks; residential and office landscaping
2. Pay cotton and alfalfa farmers to change to other crops
3. Pay for research-- at UC Riverside, UC Davis, Cal Poly SLO, Cal State Fresno, CA Agricultural Statistics Service, CA Dept. of Food and Agriculture (Plant Industry)-- to develop a discipline for aggressive irrigation management where the goal is that not a drop of water escapes some plant's intake

I would be in favor of these and other conservation measures over the proposed constructions, for the savings in maintenance costs, for systems that don't lose water to evaporation, for systems that don't lose water to run-off, and for systems that prevent run-off from entering riparian and wetland habitats (polluting and/or altering salinity).

Cynthia Cooper
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cc: California Dept. Food & Agriculture
Dr. Charles M Burt, Director, Cal Poly SLO Irrigation Training & Research Center
Dr. David F. Zoldoske, Cal State Fresno, Center for Irrigation Technology
Dr. Edward M. Norum, Cal State Fresno, Center for Irrigation Technology
Dr. John Letey, Jr., UC Riverside, Dept. of Soil & Environmental Sciences
Dr. Jeffrey P. Mitchell, UC Davis, Vegetable Crop Plant Sciences