



SHASTA COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE/WEIGHTS & MEASURES

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JUN 30 1998

MARY PFEIFFER
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights & Measures

June 29, 1998

CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Comments on draft programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Breitenbach:

I am writing to express concerns regarding CALFED's draft programmatic EIS/EIR. Shasta County is a rural county in far northern California and much of its economic base is dependent upon resource industries including agriculture, timber and tourism. Without adequate water supplies these industries would be severely impacted. While it is important to work on solutions to environmental problems plaguing the bay-delta region, CALFED must assure that areas such as Shasta County will not be harmed by the eventual solution(s).

The state's agricultural industry is also facing some of the greatest challenges from the solutions currently under consideration. Unfortunately, the proposed solutions do not include significant water storage options. These options must be included in order to provide storage during wet years and to prevent the excessive use of this region's underground water supplies.

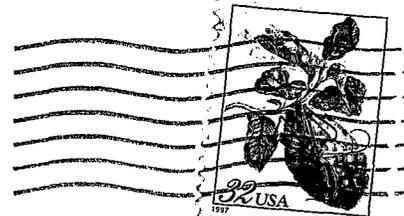
It is also imperative to consider the future impacts of converting over one quarter of a million acres of irreplaceable prime agricultural land to other uses. The retirement of huge blocks of this significant global resource will have a negative impact on the economy of this state and its citizens. New conveyance systems, reservoirs, etc. will require that some agricultural land be taken out of production, but the amount of land should be minimized to protect this resource for future generations.

As the complex solution to the bay-delta problem is crafted it is imperative that it not be done at the expense of rural, northern California. Historical water rights and the ability to sustain a viable agricultural economy in this state cannot be underemphasized. Those who create demand and benefit directly from new supplies must pay for them. Ultimately, the solution must be fair to everyone.

Sincerely,

MARY PFEIFFER
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures

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