

LEWALLEN LAND AND CATTLE CO., INC.

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01676

June 29, 1998

Mr. Rick Breitenback
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Ste 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

JUL 01 1998

Re: Comments on the draft programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Breitenback:

Farmers and related agribusiness in the San Joaquin Delta and San Joaquin County have a number of specific concerns about the Cal-Fed Bay-Delta proposals.

As stewards of the land, farmers are well aware of the need to continually work to solve environmental problems in our region. At the same time, Cal-Fed must be able to assure that the water needs of farmers, industries and urban residents will be met, now and in the future. A reliable water source, with improved water quality is key to the future of the San Joaquin Delta. The cost of increased water storage facilities must be shared by all: urban and rural areas, as well as agriculture and residential entities. And most importantly, both Southern and Northern California must share the responsibility for an ample water supply. The agricultural community is aware that some land must be taken out of production to make way for new water storage facilities. But for the Delta to bear the burden for the entire state is unacceptable to Northern California agriculture, and San Joaquin County.

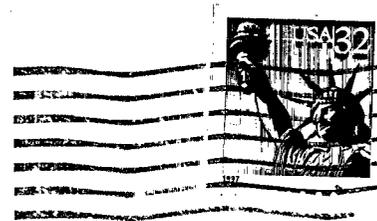
Cal Fed must strengthen water rights and must not base its solutions on redirection of agricultural water and conversion of farmland. Please consider all this information, and find an alternative to flooding the Delta islands. An alternative must also be found for the peripheral canal-type of water transfer system, in order to maintain water quality of San Joaquin County and the delta system.

We highly agree that there should be a better dispensation of water rights than has been done with Cal-Fed.

Sincerely,

Alberta Lewallen, Secretary
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