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AUG 11 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 9, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CalFed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

The San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation has recently received the 6,500 page Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the CalFed Bay-Delta Program. After an initial review of the document, the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation continues to have extreme concerns about this proposed program.

California will not have enough water for the environment in dry years if this proposed document is adopted. Cal-Fed must move aggressively to develop new water storage that provides adequate yield. Without more storage, water will be taken away from farms, especially during droughts. Without water, farmland will lose its value as habitat and as a vital food resource for California's growing population. If CalFed is going to coordinate a plan to assure reliable, high-quality water for California's people while addressing bay-delta environmental problems, then sufficient time must be taken before this plan is adopted to prove to the entire population of California that this plan will provide a suitable amount of water for everyone.

Unfortunately with a little more than a month to review the document, the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation has spent many hours trying to review the 6,500-page document with gradual success. Since the release of the CalFed plan "Framework for Action" agreement in June 2000, it has been very difficult understand how exactly how CalFed will affect San Joaquin County Agriculture. The framework does not appear to be a reflection of the Final EIS/EIR.

POST OFFICE BOX 8444 • 3290 NORTH AD ART WAY • (209) 931-4831 • STOCKTON, CA 95208

Ed Faulkland
6968 E. Nordburg Rd
Sacramento, Ca. 95820

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AUG 11 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Aug. 9 2000
Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca. 95814
RE: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

I am a farmer, land owner and vineyard manager wrapped up in one. Water rights are at the forefront. Groundwater is what I use but am concerned of water as a whole. Rushing your program is unethical. 30 days for review of your current proposal is ludicrous. 6500 pages in 30 days? Open public comment means alot for all concerned. Please consider using your common sense by using others common sense. Extend your review period?

Sincerely Ed Faulkland

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Richard Pombo
Gov. Gray Davis
State Senator Patrick Johnston
Assemblyman Anthony Pescetti

Yvette Sack
9471 Denholm Court
Elk Grove, CA 95758

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AUG 11 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 7, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I reside in Sacramento County and my family has property in Mendocino County. I am concerned about the Cal-Fed Final Programmatic EIS/EIR and I ask two things:

1. Extend the period to look through the document and provide comments. I cannot adequately review the thousands of pages in the time allowed.
2. Hold public hearings to explain what you will do and the effects on us. The public needs to have an opportunity to understand and discuss this document. Even though you may not believe you are obligated to tell us how the plan will affect us, it's the right thing to do.

Comments: I believe that by trying to protect the environment, the Cal-Fed plan could actually harm it. Taking thousands of acres of farmland Cal-Fed proposes to take out of production. The wildlife is present because of the habitat provided by farmers and ranchers. History shows that the government has not done a good job of protecting and repopulating these species. Cooperative arrangements with landowners have worked better.

The farm environment where wildlife has gathered will be forever changed. Those crops won't be grown. Many species now occupy the acres of farmland Cal-Fed proposes to take out of production. The wildlife is present because of the habitat provided by farmers and ranchers. History shows that the government has not done a good job of protecting and repopulating these species. Cooperative arrangements with landowners have worked better.

The Cal-Fed plan is flawed. I am disappointed that Cal-Fed and its agencies turned a deaf ear to the more than 1,000 representatives of agriculture who attended your 16 hearings last year. Of the 800 people who spoke, most were farmers, ranchers, their families and neighbors. They are stewards of the environment, managing land and water that produce food, wildlife and oxygen.

Sincerely,

Yvette Sack

Yvette Sack

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Senator Barbara Boxer Governor Gray Davis
Congressman Robert Matsui State Sen. Patrick Johnston Rep. Anthony Pescetti
Sacramento Board of Supervisors

Therefore, the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation is requesting additional time to evaluate the new environmental document and believes that CalFed should include the public in its final decision by holding public hearings to explain how the plan has changed and how it will affect California. The San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation urges that the issues raised today need to be addressed before any final decision is filed.

Agriculture is part of California. Again, it is important that we protect our future, our farmers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Loren C. Ohm

Loren C. Ohm
President

cc: Bill Pauli, CFBF President
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Richard Pombo
Governor Gray Davis
State Senator Patrick Johnston
State Senator Dick Monteith
Assemblyman Dennis Cardoza
Assemblyman Mike Machado
Assemblyman Anthony Pescetti
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

Diana Bacchetti
2360 Westbury
Tracy, CA 95376

August 2, 00
Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive
CalFed Bay-Delta Program
1416 North Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

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AUG 11 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Attn: Cal Fed Final Programmatic EIR/EIS
Rick Veldstve
18450 Dodds
Escalon, CA 95320 209-838-3074
8-9-00

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CalFed Bay-Delta Program

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

CalFed should encourage farmers to maintain and enhance voluntary habitat - conservation efforts. But farmers and other rural Californians fear that CalFed respects farmland only for its value in sustaining fish and wildlife not for its value in sustaining people. We need more time to evaluate the new environmental report.

I protest most strongly. ~~Cal~~ Cal-Fed must allow adequate time to review 6500 pages of double-speak to find your true agenda. 30 days ^{for review & comment} is a slap in the face of the public who has worked YEARS to solve our water problems. What are you hiding? Why the rush with this final document that will be irreversible? It only confirms my suspicions that you intend to do us farmers great harm. You are NOT acting in the best interest of the people of California.
Warm Regards. Rick Veldstve

cc Senators
cc Governor
cc Mike Machado

Sincerely
Diana Bacchetti

cc: Senator Diane Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Richard Pombo
Governor Gray Davis
State Senator Patrick Johnston
Assemblyman Mike Machado

JOHN EILERS FARMS
21355 Walnut Drive
Linden, California 95236

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

JOHN EILERS FARMS
21355 Walnut Drive
Linden, California 95236

Aug. 9, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Exec. Dir.
CalFed Bay-Delta Program
1416 North St.
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: CalFed Program EIS-EIR

cc: Senator Barbara Boxer
Governor Gray Davis
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Assemblyman Mike Machado
Senator Patrick Johnston
Rep. Richard Pombo
Chairman Ed Simas, San Joaquin Bd of Supr

I am a 5th generation farmer in the Central San Joaquin Valley. I'm also president of Land Utilization Trust, a Land Trust in San Joaquin County.

On my farm I am now in a BIOS program to grow walnuts in an environmentally friendly manner. I am providing a habitat for many "little critters" and am doing it at my expense. There are many farmers in this county doing the same.

CalFed doesn't need to acquire more land for habitat restoration until it has fully addressed the restoration in progress or already completed.

I would ask that you extend the period of Environmental Review of the EIS-EIR so that everyone can comment on this very complex and important issue.
Sincerely, J. Eilers

C-029661

C-029661

HESELTYNE RANCHES
P.O. Box 157
Clements, California 95227

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AUG 11 2000

DAN & TOM ROGERS FARMING

CALFED Bay-Delta Program
17261 Camden Drive, Madera, CA 93638
Telephone (559) 673-2070
FAX (559) 673-2111
tom@madnet.net

August 9, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie
Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

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AUG 11 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 8, 2000

Dear Mr. Ritchie: RE: FINAL PROGRAMMATIC EIS/EIR

I am concerned about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment on farms and ranches. Agriculture is an important part of California's environment. Cal-Fed plans to convert nearly a quarter of a million acres of farmland to habitat and other uses. It should study the environmental impact of the land conversion. Cal-Fed must seek ways to avoid taking farmland out of production.

My land has been farmed since 1949. We have had row crops and now have vineyard. We have a natural habitat all around our vineyard.

I know many farmers who enhance the wildlife value of their farms. We are stewards of the land and we want to be partners in environmental restoration. But we oppose requirements that tell us what to grow and how to grow it. Cal-Fed must work with us in a cooperative spirit.

To maintain productive and wildlife-friendly farms, farmers need reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must move aggressively to develop new water storage that provides adequate yield. Without more storage, California won't have enough water for the environment in dry years. That means water will be taken away from farms, especially during droughts. Without water farmland loses its value as habitat and as a vital food resource for California's growing population.

Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,


Bob Hesseltyne

Cc: Governor Gray Davis
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I farm 100 acres of almonds in Madera County. I thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Programmatic EIS/EIR.

I am asking you to extend the time for comment on the final EIS/EIR. As a farmer with harvest starting within days, I do not have time to adequately look at the thousands of pages in the document in the time allowed.

I would also ask you to hold public hearings to explain what you will do and the effects on us. Many changes were made to the report, which the public needs to have an opportunity to understand and discuss. I fear that even after we review the document there will be a lot that we won't understand. Even though you may not believe you are obligated to tell us how the plan will affect us, it's the right thing to do.

I believe in trying to protect the environment. The Cal-Fed plan actually will harm it instead. Taking thousands of acres of land out of production will change the face of California agriculture dramatically. It will have a huge impact on the environment, not to mention local economies. When the land in private ownership stops providing food, a tax base and wildlife habitat, what happens to that land?

The farm environment where wildlife has gathered will be forever changed. Those crops won't be grown. Many species now occupy the acres of farmland Cal-Fed

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
August 8, 2000
Page 2

proposes to take out of production. They are there because of the habitat provided by farmers and ranchers. History shows that the government has not done a good job of protecting and repopulating these species. Cooperative arrangements with landowners have worked better.

The Cal-Fed plan is flawed. I am disappointed that Cal-Fed and its agencies have turned a deaf ear to the more than 1,000 representatives of agriculture who attended your 16 hearings last year. Of the 800 people who spoke, most were farmers and ranchers and their families and neighbors. These people are stewards of the environment, managing land and water that produces food, wildlife and oxygen.

Very truly yours,


Tom Rogers

cc: Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Diane Feinstein
Representative George Radanovich
Governor Gray Davis
State Senator Dick Monteith
Assembly Member George House

08/10/2000

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AUG 11 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CalFed Bay-Delta Program
1416 9th St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

I am a wine grape grower. I have farmed winegrapes most of life and I am a continuation of three generations of grape growing. My son who is now attending California State University at Fresno is studying wine grape growing and is planning to be the fourth generation to farm. As stewards of the land we feel it is important to enhance the wild life value of the farm. We provide owl boxes and refuge areas around the vineyard to help insure these qualities. We want to preserve the land so it can be farmed and enjoyed for the next generation.

To insure that the land is there for the next generation to come, farmers need reliable and affordable water. I feel that Cal Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't be taken away from farms.

I am writing in the hopes that Cal-Fed will hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. I do not believe that Cal-Fed adequately studied the effects of such a large-scale land conversion and I do not believe Cal-Fed tried hard enough to minimize farmland losses.

Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement this plan.

Sincerely,


Joe A. Costa

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Richard Pombo
Governor Gray Davis

State Senator Patrick Johnston
Assemblyman Anthony Poscetti
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors

Joe A. Costa Vineyards, Inc. 9414 Kest Road Galt CA 95632-8805
PHONE (209) 745-4538 FAX (209) 744-1403 CELL (209) 649-6911 E-MAIL WINEVINZ@AOL.COM

C - 0 2 9 6 6 2

C-029662

Christopher Giannini
1421 Audrey Dr
Tracy, CA 95376

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Lodi-Lockeford Tractor Company, Inc.

Corner Brandt Road & Hwy. 88
P. O. Box 650
Lockeford, California 95237
209-727-5811 * Fax 209-727-5716

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AUG 11 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

8/2/00

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

The Cal-Fed plan acknowledges it will have an "irreversible and irretrievable" impact on almost a quarter-of-a-million acres of California farmlands. Yet Cal-Fed offers no plan to replace this lost land, simply referring to farmland losses as "unavoidable."

As well as Farmers can run wildlife-friendly, productive farms only if they have adequate, reliable, affordable water. Without water, farmland loses its value both as habitat and as a vital food resource for California's growing populations.

For both these issues we need more time to evaluate the new environmental report.

Sincerely,



Christopher Giannini

Cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Richard Pombo
Governor Gray Davis
State Senator Patrick Johnston
Assemblyman Mike Machado
... Fresno County Board of Supervisors

In order to meet its environmental goals, Cal-Fed must move aggressively to develop new water storage that provides adequate yield. Farms generally don't need additional new water. But farmers realize the need to make sure there's enough available to meet environmental goals, especially in dry years. The only way to guarantee adequate water especially in aboveground reservoirs. Otherwise, water will be taken away from farms to sustain environmental and urban uses during droughts.

Farmers recognize and support the need to use water more efficiently. In fact, our farms have increased tonnage of agricultural production by two-thirds since 1967, while using less water. But conservation has environmental consequences of its own. Reducing water use can affect ecology of the farm, for example by allowing salts to build up in soil. Agricultural water conservation may also reduce the flow of water into underground aquifers or other water bodies. Cal-Fed should study these impacts before imposing water-efficiency requirements. We have gone to drip irrigation to save on water and energy use.

Sincerely,



James L. Rott

cc: Governor Gray Davis
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

August 9, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am concerned about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment on farms and ranches. Agriculture is an important part of California's environment. Cal-Fed plans to convert nearly a quarter of a million acres of farmland to habitat and other uses. It should study the environmental impact of that land conversion. Cal-Fed must seek ways to avoid taking farmland out of production.

My land has been farmed since 1876. In my vineyard, I provide nesting boxes for owls. We also have a buffer strip between our vineyard and the creek, to help clean irrigation water that drains into the river.

Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

The Cal-Fed plan acknowledges it will have an "irreversible and irretrievable" impact on almost a quarter-of-a-million acres of California farmland. Yet Cal-Fed offers no plan to replace the lost land, simply referring to farmland losses and "unavoidable."

Cal-Fed should conduct its habitat-restoration work on existing government-owned land and reduce its impact on productive farmland. Government already owns half of California's 100 million acres.

Phil and Jean Balmat
8755 S. Inland Drive
Stockton, CA 95206

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 9, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

My family has been involved in Agriculture for four generations, both of my Great Grandfathers farmed in Iowa, the last three generations of Balmats in California. I live and own farmland in the San Joaquin Delta on Roberts Island and farm almonds in Merced County. I am very concerned about Cal-Fed and its potential negative affects on agriculture in general and the delta in specific.

As a resident of the delta and an avid angler, I spend as much time as I can on the delta waterways and love it for what it is. I certainly want to see it protected. Like almost all farmers and ranchers that I know, I have a great appreciation for wildlife and the environment. I am not convinced that Cal-Fed really has this interest at heart, but am willing to listen.

Cal-Fed is purported to be beneficial to all concerned, agriculture, wildlife and southern California water users. I have yet to see how removing thousands of acres of farmland from production will benefit agriculture. The State and Federal Governments already own millions of acres of land in California. Is it necessary for the State to take even more land from private citizens? If wildlife habitat is one of your goals, why not create that habitat on land that the State already owns?

Agriculture is the largest industry in California. It contributes greatly to the Gross National Product, is the largest employer in the state and produces more commodities that can be exported to contribute to the nations balance of trade than any other industry.

The Final Programmatic EIS/EIR is a huge document. Most of us in agriculture spend long days farming. As a result, time to review such a huge document is at a minimum. This puts farmers and ranchers at a distinct disadvantage with people who are paid to spend their working days designing, writing and reviewing such documents. The time allowed for public comment is inadequate. Please allow more time for public comment and review. I think a period of not less than 6 months to be a minimum.

If the California is to continue to grow, the demand for food and water will also increase. The answer to the water problem will never be solved without more storage facilities. Removing land from agricultural production will not enhance the production of food, jobs and tax revenue. It does nothing to increase the water supply. Natural habitat requires water just as does farming.

I also find it somewhat paradoxical that those same people, who cry the loudest about the loss of farmland when a housing development takes land out of production, eagerly give their support when the government wants to take thousands of acres from production for wildlife habitat. That leads me to question the motives of those groups. Believe me, I am no supporter of new housing developments on farmland.

Living and working on the land on a daily basis, I see the positive affects agriculture has on wildlife. The irrigation canals and drain ditches in my area are full of life, including crawfish, catfish, carp, bluegills, ducks and muskrats. The tules and cattails along the banks provide habitat for a large number of small birds and animals. Pheasants, dove and quail are plentiful in corn, wheat, safflower, asparagus and alfalfa fields.

As a state we must consider that as the population in southern California continues to grow, their demand for water will also grow. The more the population in the south grows, the more their demand upon California's finite water supply, the more water available to southern California the more that population can and will grow and again their demand for our limited water supply will continue to increase even further. If left unabated, this never ending circle will continue until southern California's demand for water has grown so large that there will be inadequate supplies for California's "Golden Goose," agriculture.

Agriculture in not a special interest, it is the interest of every man, woman and child who enjoys the bountiful supply of high quality and inexpensive food that is set forth before them by the farmers and ranchers of California.

Sincerely,

Phillip Balmat
Phillip Balmat

cc: Govenor Gray Davis
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
State Senator Patrick Johnston
Representative Richard Pombo
Assembly Member Michael Machado
San Joaquin Board of Supervisors

8/3/00

DAN VAN VUREN
7063 S STOW AVE
STOCKTON CA. 95215

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AUG 11 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

- To whom it may concern at CAL-FED
- My name is Dan Van Vuren I am a local dairy farmer in San Joaquin County. I am very concerned with the amount of time allotted for review of the EIR that was performed on the CAL FED process, please extend this period and allow more time for public comment. This process will be detrimental to the agriculture industry and requires the time to be reviewed properly and thoroughly and completely to provide all agencies involved.

Sincerely,

Dan Van Vuren

cc. Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Richard Pombo
Govenor Gray Davis
Patrick Johnston
Mike Machado, ...



Fondse Bros. Inc.

21399 Carrolton Avenue Ripon, California 95386 Phone: (209) 599-3389

August 9, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

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AUG 11 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

I am a third generation farmer from the San Joaquin Valley. Water is a very important part of our way of life and being able to produce a crop. This new environmental report for CalFed plan needs more than 30 days to honestly be evaluated. Also for CalFed to meet its environmental goals, it must move more aggressively to develop new water storage. We must capture more water during to wet years to supply us for the dry years. Is that common sense.

Sincerely,

Kevin B. Fondse
Kevin B. Fondse

cc. Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Richard Pombo
Govenor Gray Davis
Patrick Johnston
Mike Machado, ...

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AUG 11 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Joseph M. Marsh
P. O. Box 1308
Arbutic, CA 95912
Tel/Fax (530) 476-3773

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Manager
CALFED Bay/Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

August 1, 2000

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a Colusa County almond and field crop farmer, I am concerned with your final CalFed EIS/EIR released July 21, 2000. It is a large and technical document. An extended comment period and the opportunity to have the information explained more thoroughly is necessary.

Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of agricultural land, loss of water and the lack of progress on water storage projects. If California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to demand more water, that water should come from newly developed sources, not from agriculture.

Water for agriculture is used to grow plants. Those plants give off oxygen and help clean the air. Agriculture provides wildlife habitat while producing food. I continue to pay taxes on that land, survive on the income derived and provide employment for neighbors in my community. This land has been in my family for generations. It is sustainable. I am not destroying the environment, as many often claim. I am helping to preserve it.

If agriculture is curtailed, all of us will be forced to buy our food from foreign countries. Citizens will have no say regarding how food is produced or which chemicals may be used to produce the food. We do not want to be dependent on imports.

Delta water quality issues can be ameliorated by developing new surface water storage north of the Delta.

Right now the government owns about half of the land in California. Yet, 75% of the wildlife habitat is on privately owned land. The animals like what we are doing. Our land is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often times goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land properly.

Again, I request more time for comments and public hearings and more consideration for vital agricultural interests.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Marsh
Joseph M. Marsh

Catherine E. Marsh
Catherine E. Marsh

CC: Govenor Davis
Diane Feinstein
Barbara Boxer

Doug Ose
Maurice Johannessen
Colusa County Board of Supervisors

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C-029664

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AUG 11 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program
August 6, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

I know many farmers, as well as myself, who enhance the wildlife value of our farms. We are stewards of the land and we want to be partners in environmental restoration. But we oppose requirements, made without our input, that tell us what to grow and how to grow it. Cal-Fed must work with us in a cooperative spirit.

Please extend the period to look through the document and provide comments on the final EIS/EIR release July 21. As a farmer I can't adequately review the thousands of pages in the document in the time allowed.

Please hold public hearings to explain what the plan is and it's effects. Many changes were made to the report, which the public needs to have an opportunity to understand and discuss. I fear that even after we review the document there will be a lot we won't understand. Even though you may not believe you are obligated to tell us how the plan will affect us, it's the right thing to do.

To maintain productive and wildlife-friendly farms, farmers need reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must move aggressively to develop new water storage that provides adequate yield. Without more storage, California won't have enough water for the environment in dry years. That means water will be taken away from farms, especially during droughts. Without water, farmland loses its value as habitat and as a vital food resource for California's growing population.

Mr. Ritchie, our great country was founded as a Democracy. Is the Cal-Fed process following in a Democratic manner?

Regards,



cc: Governor Gray Davis
Dianne Feinstein
Barbara Boxer
Richard Pombo
Anthony Pescetti
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

LANGETWINS

VINEYARD MANAGEMENT COMPANY, INC.

August 09, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am concerned about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment on farms and ranches. Agriculture is an important part of California's environment. Cal-Fed plans to convert nearly a quarter of a million acres of farmland to habitat and other uses. It should study the environmental impact of that land conversion. Cal-Fed must seek ways to avoid taking farmland out of production.

I know many farmers who enhance the wildlife value of their farms. We are stewards of the land and we want to be partners in environmental restoration. But we oppose requirements that tell us what to grow and how to grow it. Cal-Fed must work with us in a cooperative spirit.

To maintain productive and wildlife-friendly farms, farmers need reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must move aggressively to develop new water storage that provides adequate yield. Without more storage, California won't have enough water for the environment in dry years. That means water will be taken away from farms, especially during droughts. Without water, farmland loses its value as habitat and as a vital food resource for California's growing population.

Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,



cc: Governor Gray Davis
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
State Sen. Pat Johnston
Rep. Richard Pombo
Assembly Member Anthony Pescetti
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

1298 W. Juhart Road Acampo, California 95220 Office: (209) 338-4055 Fax: (209) 338-9014

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Ja-Hut Vineyards
P. O. Box 547
Clements, California 95227
209-727-5811 * Fax 209-727-5716

August 9, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am concerned about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment on farms and ranches. Agriculture is an important part of California's environment. Cal-Fed plans to convert nearly a quarter of a million acres of farmland to habitat and other uses. It should study the environmental impact of that land conversion. Cal-Fed must seek ways to avoid taking farmland out of production.

My land has been farmed since 1876. In my vineyard, I provide nesting boxes for owls. We also have a buffer strip between our vineyard and the creek, to help clean irrigation water that drains into the river.

Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

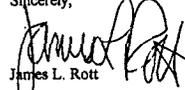
The Cal-Fed plan acknowledges it will have an "irreversible and ir retrievable" impact on almost a quarter-of-a-million acres of California farmland. Yet Cal-Fed offers no plan to replace the lost land, simply referring to farmland losses and "unavoidable."

Cal-Fed should conduct its habitat-restoration work on existing government-owned land and reduce its impact on productive farmland. Government already owns half of California's 100 million acres.

In order to meet its environmental goals, Cal-Fed must move aggressively to develop new water storage that provides adequate yield. Farms generally don't need additional new water. But farmers realize the need to make sure there's enough available to meet environmental goals, especially in dry years. The only way to guarantee adequate water especially in aboveground reservoirs. Otherwise, water will be taken away from farms to sustain environmental and urban uses during droughts.

Farmers recognize and support the need to use water more efficiently. In fact, our farms have increased tonnage of agricultural production by two-thirds since 1967, while using less water. But conservation has environmental consequences of its own. Reducing water use can affect ecology of the farm, for example by allowing salts to build up in soil. Agricultural water conservation may also reduce the flow of water into underground aquifers or other water bodies. Cal-Fed should study these impacts before imposing water-efficiency requirements. We have gone to drip irrigation to save on water and energy use.

Sincerely,



cc: Governor Gray Davis
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

C - 0 2 9 6 6 5

C-029665

Aug 9, 2000

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AUG 11 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mark Costa
22800 E. Millerton Rd.
Linden, CA, 95236

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AUG 11 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr Steve Ritchie
Cal Fed Bay Delta
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sac. Ca. 95814

August 31, 2000

RE: Final EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed needs to acknowledge California farm land as a valuable natural resource. Taking large tracts of land out of production will harm the state economy.

Water conservation is a noble goal, but difficult, if not impossible to quantify. Storage is the only solution that will work year in and year out to fill the need of a growing population.

Also, the volume of material to review cannot be comprehended in the short (30 day) period. This needs to be extended.

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director

Cal Fed Bay-Delta Program

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155

Sacramento, CA. 95814

RE: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

Cal-Fed must move aggressively to develop new water storage to provide an adequate yield. There are millions of acre feet of water that can be captured or used on our prime farmland. Please consider more water storage, such as more dams or increasing storage of existing dams. Because of these impacts on the environment we need more time to evaluate the new environment reports.

Sincerely,

Mark J. Costa

Mark J. Costa

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Richard Amodeo
Governor Gray Davis
Senator Patrick Johnstone
Assemblyman Mike Machado
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep Richard Amodeo
Gov. Gray Davis
Sen. Patrick Johnstone
Asm. Mike Machado
Asst. Anthony Paccetta
San Joaquin Board of Sup.

Bruce G. Mettler
Director C.F.B.P.
San Joaquin County
Stock, Calif. 95240

J. ARMANINO FARMS, INC.
1141 N. BEECHER ROAD
STOCKTON, CA 95205
(209) 931-3471

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AUG 11 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Sean Robertson
25080 S. Benton Rd.
Tracy, CA, 95304

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AUG 11 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Aug 9, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie

Cal Fed Bay Delta Program

1416 Ninth St, Suite 1155

Sacramento, Ca 95814

8-2-00

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Exec. Dir.

Cal Fed Bay-Delta Program

1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155

Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie;

I farm 700 acres in the delta west of Stockton, Cal., asparagus, wheat and corn and it is of great concern that I view your project, especially your policy of holding meetings to present your plans for our future under Cal Fed and then changing your plans and saying this is the final result and this is what you're going to do. We the people that will be affected should have at least one more chance to comment on the final draft. This is an enormous project and everyone should have a chance to comment.

I have on my property eucalyptus trees that I and my son planted 30 years ago to provide habitat for ducks, we also have put up numerous owl boxes and leave vegetable strips for other wildlife.

So please consider all of us before you make your final decision.

John Armanino

California farmland is a natural resource of global importance. Cal-Fed plans to acquire or control hundreds of thousands of acres of California's farmland, mainly for fish and wildlife habitat. Cal-Fed hasn't done enough to study the environmental impact of this large-scale land conversion.

Many farmers will gladly enhance the wildlife value of their farms, and many already do. We take seriously our role as stewards of the environment and want to be partners in restoration activities. Some farmers oppose requirements that tell us what to grow and how to grow. Cal-Fed must work with farmers in a cooperative spirit.

Farmers can run wildlife-friendly, productive farms only if they have adequate, reliable, affordable water. Without water, farmland loses its value both as habitat and as a vital food resource for California's growing population.

C-029666

C-029666

Because of all these impacts on the environment of rural California - and because the Cal-Fed plan appears to have changed as a result of the "framework agreement" signed in June - we need more time to evaluate the new environmental report.

Sincerely,
Sean Robertson
Sean Robertson

Cc: Sen. Dianne Feinstein
Sen. Barbara Boxer
Rep. Richard Pombo
Gov. Gray Davis
State Sen. Patrick Johnston
State Assemblyman Mike Machado
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

SCHAAPMAN FARMS

DON SCHAAPMAN
FARM MANAGEMENT · CUSTOM FARMING

23288 Jackson Rd.
Ripon, Calif. 95366
Phone (209) 599-3421

P.C.O. #43423
Fed. ID. #94-2754019

August 9, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CalFed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

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AUG 11 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

I am a San Joaquin County farmer that will be directly impacted by any immediate decision made on the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the CalFed Bay-Delta Program.

I am concerned with the EIS/EIR by the way it directs the agricultural community to enhance the wildlife value of their farms by determining what commodity to grow and how to grow it. We have already taken many steps to strengthen our efforts to protect our local wildlife. We take our role as stewards of the environment seriously and want to be partners in restoration activities. This document though will take away my ability to choose what is best for my farm.

The government already owns half of the State of California's 100 million acres. This is a great place for CalFed to conduct its habitat-restoration work on existing government-owned land and reduce its impact on productive farmland. CalFed must consider this option before a final decision is certified.

Being an active farmer in my community, I have not had the time to sit down and completely read the 6,500-page final EIS/EIR nor will I have time in the current timeframe that is now in place. I need more time to evaluate the new environmental report, therefore, please extend the timeframe to allow myself as well as the public to review the document. I am also requesting that public hearings should be included for our government to hear what the public has to say about this program. This would also give me one more chance to understand just how this decision could affect my farming operation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Don Schaapman
Don Schaapman

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Richard Pombo
Governor Gray Davis
State Senator Patrick Johnston
Assemblyman Dennis Cardoza
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors



STANTON L. LANGE

20430 N. DeVries Road, Lodi, CA 95242
209/368-4859

VINEYARD MANAGEMENT

August 8, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

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AUG 11 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

As a San Joaquin County winegrape farmer, I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request that you give us more time to review and comment on your document. It is long and complex and needs time to digest. Holding hearings to explain the Cal-Fed program would also be very helpful.

Through this entire process I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers.

Do we really want to lose thousands of acres of farmland in California and lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants? Right now the government owns about half the land in California yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private land. It must be evident that we as farmers are providing for the wildlife and its habitat.

I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,
Stanton Lange
Stanton Lange

Cc: Governor Gray Davis
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
State Senator Patrick Johnston
Representative Richard Pombo
Assembly Member Anthony Pescetti
San Joaquin county Board of Supervisors



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AUG 11 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Fred C. Claus
Sombroso Ranch - P.O. Box 430
Hickman, California 95323

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AUG 11 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

To protect our community, our economy and our future through a united public education and advocacy effort to preserve the water rights of California's Imperial Valley

August 4, 2000

August 9, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a Stanislaus County walnut farmer, I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request you give us more time to review and comment on your document. It is much too large to digest and much too complex to understand. I also request you hold hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers.

Water for farms is used to grow trees. These trees give off oxygen and help clean the air. Farming provides wildlife habitat while producing food. I continue to pay taxes on that land and survive on the income. This farmland has been in my family for generations. It is sustainable. I am not destroying the environment; I am helping to preserve it.

Do we really want to lose thousands of acres of farmland in California and lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants? Right now, the government owns about half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private land. Why do you think that is?

I have an answer. The animals like what we are doing. Our land and water is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land properly.

Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,
Fred C. Claus
Fred Claus

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Dick Monteith Rep. Gary Condit
Assembly Member George House
Stanislaus County Supervisors

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: FINAL PROGRAMMATIC EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Imperial Valley United is a coalition of business, government, agriculture and civic organizations organized for the purpose of protecting the water rights and way of life in the Imperial Valley of California. We have significant concerns about Cal-Fed's proposal to take a quarter million acres of farmland out of production. This exactly the type of thing we are opposed to in our local, agriculturally based economy. The impacts of land retirement are far-reaching, well beyond the impact to producers. Fallowing acreage would have devastating affects on our economy, and we know the same holds true for the communities of the Central Valley.

We believe Cal-Fed is being shortsighted in its attempt to provide environmental mitigation for the Bay Delta. Agriculture provides immense habitat in addition to the invaluable economic contribution it provides to the state's economy. In our region, agriculture is the lifeblood of the Salton Sea and the surrounding ecosystem. We are concerned that we will be the next victims of this dangerous, governmental intervention precedence.

We also are very concerned about the short public comment period and lack of public hearings on this all-important issue.

Sincerely,
Lauren S. Grizzle
Lauren S. Grizzle
Acting Executive Director

CC: Governor Gray Davis
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Congressman Duncan Hunter
State Senator Dave Kelley
Assemblyman Jim Battin
Supervisor Wally Leimgruber
Supervisor Bill Cole
Supervisor Tony Tirado
Supervisor Tom Veysey
Supervisor Dean Shores
CFBF Rep. Judi Fitzgerald

Raymond M. Quaresma
5700 E. Perrin Rd.
Manteca, CA. 95337

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AUG 11 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Director

I AM a dairyman in manteca CALIF.
I AM concern about our future of this great San Joaquin valley. We have soil and water that feels so right to keep into Aggrecculture. We always in Ag substain economy's. We dont make the Big Tax# dollars as industry. but we do keep Food commodities very affordable in the world. I think the issue is are we infor the Long run or are we going to take away something so beautiful for the short Hi \$ return. as far as For the health of The environment to me its simple every place

you take away aggrecculture and put in Industry or housing the enviroment goes down. Just study it yourself. I Feel unsure about cal-FED. I don't know if They are what Calif. needs for her best Long term health of the state. I recommend that we all take more time to study the authority that we will have to abuyed to. And how it will effect California.

Sincerely, *Raymond M. Quaresma*

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Richard Pombo
Governor Gray Davis
~~Dick Monteith~~ Dick Monteith - state senator
Dennis Cardoza, milke Machado - Assemblyman
Bob Capral S.J. County Board of Supervisors

2/1/00
Kenny Watkins
P.O. Box 472
Linden Ca 95236

HILDEBRAND FARM
23443 S. Hays Road
Manteca, CA 95337
Phone (209) 823-4166
Fax (209) 825-6180

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AUG 11 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 9, 2000

Steve Ritchie
Cal Fed - Delta
1416 9th ST Suite 1155
Sac, Ca 95814

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AUG 11 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mary Nichols, Secretary
The Resources Agency of California
Suite 1311, Resources Building
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW Room 5113
Washington D.C. 20240

Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 9th Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Nichols, Mr. Hayes, and Mr. Ritchie:

I am writing to comment regarding CALFED's proposed 30 day comment period on its Final Programmatic EIS/EIR, and on the proposed early adoption of a Record of Decision. As you know I am an environmentally sensitive farmer, a San Joaquin County Farm Bureau Director, and a member of BDAC.

We should not pretend that there can be meaningful public review and comment on a six thousand page document in the proposed 30 day review period. It can not be assumed that the public already knows what is in the document. CALFED became a "closed door" process last May. The public does not know what changes have been made from previous documents and where any such changes may be buried in the new document.

Furthermore, there will be a cloud over the future of CALFED if a Record of Decision is adopted without first holding public meetings in which CALFED clarifies its intent in respect to important issues wherein CALFED appears to be vague or ambiguous, or even misleading. It is unlikely that these clarifications can be found in the FEIS/EIR or that they will be resolved by later piecemeal, site specific EIR/EIS's. For example,

- What are CALFED's intentions regarding improvement of its through-Delta conveyance plan? The plan was developed without participation by in-Delta interests and in disregard of the plan's inadequacies and

I'm a farmer in San Joaquin county. I've attended 3 cal fed hearings last year. after listening to all the testimony, we need more storage for farmers, cities and fish.

The government already owns to much land in calif, cal feds proposals to buy more is wrong.

I need you to extend the time, for me to evaluate the new environmental report.

cc Feinstein Johnston
Boxer Machado
Pombo SJ Board of Sops
Gov Davis

Kenny Watkins

in-Delta impacts. Will the plan be improved by measures such as proposed by BDAC and Delta interests and urged by the Ag Caucus?

- What does CALFED mean when it speaks of "water supply reliability"? "Reliability" apparently does not mean "adequacy" as the public is allowed to believe. It also can't mean a predictable degree of inadequacy unless CALFED follows BDAC's recommendation regarding CALFED's intent, process, and basis for evaluating the likely water supply shortage. Will CALFED's plan lead to colossal water shortage during the life of the plan?
- What are CALFED's intentions regarding the development of new water supply? CALFED has hoodwinked the public by talking only of "storage" and letting the public believe that new storage is equivalent to new supply. Some of CALFED's storage proposals may produce very little new supply. They may also consume so much power that they can not be justified and will not be built.
- CALFED apparently now proposes that the government displace local control of groundwater management. Is the public expected to believe that there is some governmental magic by which it can thereby stop the unsustainable long term overdraft of groundwater without either replacing the overdraft with new surface water supply or reducing the agricultural water supply?

I urge that the review period be substantially extended. It is important also that the ROD not be adopted until public meetings are held and unambiguous written documents are provided to clarify CALFED's intent regarding issues such as the above, and regarding the impact that CALFED's plan will have on the production of agricultural products, and on rural communities, and on the environmental benefits provided by agriculture.

Sincerely,

Alex Hildebrand
Alex Hildebrand

cc Governor Gray Davis
Senator Diane Feinstein
Congressman Richard Pombo
Congressman Gary Condit
State Senator Patrick Johnston
State Senator Richard Montiel
Assemblyman Michael Machado
Assemblyman Dennis Cardoza
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors



Fondse Bros. Inc.

21399 Carrolton Avenue Ripon, California 95366 Phone: (209) 599-3389

August 9, 2000

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AUG 11 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final.

We are almond growers in San Joaquin County and have been farming this land since 1938. I am concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage.

Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement your plan.

Sincerely,

Lee J. Fondse

Lee J. Fondse

Les Schmid
8043 Heather Dr
Stockton, CA 95209

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AUG 11 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program



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AUG 11 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

12700 EAST GRAVES ROAD • MANTECA, CALIFORNIA 95336 (209) 599-6111 • FAX (209) 599-4008
Growers, Packers and Shippers of California Almonds

8-9-00

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal Fed. Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

August 9, 2000

Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

For years now I have been interested and involved in water issues in San Joaquin County. As an almond farmer and processor in Ripon, my livelihood is tied to the land and water supply. I have long been a proponent of developing an organized and fair plan for water distribution in California, as I realize the influx of urbanization and environmental concerns are putting a strain on the water supply in California, much of which has for generations been used productively for agriculture. I certainly realize the current water supply cannot support the needs of urban, environmental, and agricultural uses, and that some or all of these users will have to scale down use in order to provide water for everyone. However, I feel the tactics being used to speed the final Cal-Fed environmental report through the public comment phase is upsetting to fair, concerned farmers like myself.

I ask two things to restore my confidence in the Cal-Fed process:

1. Extend the period to look through the document and provide comments on the final EIS/EIR that was released July 21. It is impossible for a farmer to review thousands of pages in a technical document during harvest, our busiest time of year.
2. Hold public hearings to explain the Cal-Fed proposals and their effects on all water users, including farmers. Over 1,000 representatives of agriculture attended the 16 hearings last year, including myself. We are stewards of the environment and will be hugely impacted by the Cal-Fed proposals; most certainly our understanding of the document and concerns over changes made should be a priority for Cal-Fed officials to address.

I have been a supporter of the Cal-Fed process since its introduction in California. I ask that you treat those of us who will be impacted by the Cal-Fed proposals with the respect we deserve. Include us in the final stages of the Cal-Fed process, so that you can live up to your commitment to the public having a central role in the development of a long-term solution.

Sincerely,

David S. Phippen

cc: Governor Gray Davis Senator Dianne Feinstein Senator Barbara Boxer
 State Sen. Dick Monteith Rep. Gary Condit
 Assembly Member Mike Machado
 San Joaquin County Supervisors

Re Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr Ritchie,

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21, 00.

Cal Fed must recognize all the allied Agriculture Business's that will be put out of business or severely impacted. Farmers create business and employment for a chain of Agri related businesses which are dependent on a viable agriculture. Nothing has been addressed on this problem. Cal Fed taking 250,000 acres out of production will give a devastating effect on thousands of people and their communities.

Again I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

To do this request would indicate Cal Fed has little interest in providing a reasonable period for the average person to review your document, let alone be able to comment on it. That is not the Democratic way, and I thought I lived in the U.S.A.

Sincerely
Les Schmid

cc Governor Gray Davis
 Senator Dianne Feinstein
 Senator Barbara Boxer
 State Senator Mr. Pombo
 Assembly Member Mr. Machado
 San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

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AUG 11 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final.

Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people.

Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Thank you. I ask that this request be made a part of the permanent record.

R.D. GRUPE

Frank Morelos
2741 Fabrian Rd.
Tracy CA. 95377

8/2/00

Mr. Steve Ritchie

RECEIVED

AUG 11 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

We need a reliable source of water for growing a food source for the community. Without water we would lose a tremendous amount of valuable farmland and jobs. The economy of San Joaquin valley is dependant on ~~ag~~ agricultural jobs for stability. The community requires more time to evaluate these hearings to come up with a solution that will be beneficial to everyone involved and at this point there are many fears with this program.

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
 Senator Barbara Boxer
 Representative Richard Pombo
 Governor Gray Davis
 Patrick Johnston
 Mike Machado
 San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

MICHAEL TANAKA
11051 E BAKER RD
STOCKTON, CA 95215

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AUG 11 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

SINCERELY
Michael Tanaka

CC SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN
SENATOR BARBARA BOXER
REP. RICHARD POMBO
GOV. GRAY DAVIS
SEN. PATRICK JOHNSTON
ASSN. ANTHONY PESLETTI
S.D. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

8/2/00

MR STEVE RITCHIE, ACTING EXEC DIR
CAL FED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM
1416 NINTH ST SUITE 1155
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
Re FINAL PROGRAMMATIC EIS/EIR

BECAUSE OF ALL THESE IMPACTS ON
THE ENVIRONMENT OF RURAL CALIFORNIA
THERE NEEDS TO BE MORE TIME
TO EVALUATE THE NEW ENVIRONMENTAL
REPORT.

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON NEW CHANGES
NEED TO BE HELD.
MORE PUBLIC COMMENT IS NEEDED.

 **FARM BUREAU** SAN DIEGO COUNTY
1670 East Valley Parkway, Escondido, CA 92027-2409
Phone: (760) 745-3023 • Fax: (760) 489-6348 • E-mail: sdcfb@sdfarmbureau.org

August 9, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RECEIVED
AUG 11 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

The San Diego County Farm Bureau is concerned about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment on farms and ranches. Our county has more farms than any other in the United States and agriculture is the 4th largest industry.

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as the valuable environmental resource it is. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Instead, the plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland and Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way, the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

Without reliable and affordable water, farmers can neither provide habitat nor feed people. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

Finally, we believe Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment.

Sincerely,

David Stepp

David Stepp
President

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis State Senate
Senator Barbara Boxer Representatives Assemblymembers
Board of Supervisors

Imperial Valley Vegetable Growers Association


RECEIVED
AUG 11 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: FINAL PROGRAMMATIC EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

The Cal-Fed proposal to take nearly 250,000 acres of production is unacceptable to the members of the Imperial Valley Vegetable Growers Association. Agriculture is an irreplaceable economic and environmental resource to California.

Agriculture cannot be the solution to the state's burgeoning population. In fact, agriculture production is not only vital to the state economy providing one in every 10 jobs, but in feeding the rapidly growing population.

We know Cal Fed's concern is environmentally based, but the proposed solution is shortsighted. Farming provides immense habitat in addition to its invaluable economic contributions. To assist growers in this process, Cal-Fed must provide an answer for a reliable water supply. That includes new water storage with adequate yield, to prevent the taking of additional water from farms in drought years.

The brief comment period and the lack of public hearings are also of concern to our members. Cal-Fed is setting a dangerous precedence for all of California agriculture, not just the Central Valley's.

Sincerely,

Steve Scaroni

Steve Scaroni
President

CC: Governor Gray Davis Supervisor Wally Leimgruber
Senator Dianne Feinstein Supervisor Bill Cole
Senator Barbara Boxer Supervisor Tony Tirado
Congressman Duncan Hunter Supervisor Tom Veysey
State Senator Dave Kelley Supervisor Dean Shores
Assemblyman Jim Battin CFBF Rep. Judi Fitzgerald

8/1/00

Dick LaTuc
Hollister Ranch #21
Gaviota, Ca. 93117

Aug 1, 2000

KENNETH E. DOTY
ELLWOOD RANCH, INC
1300 ELLWOOD RCH. RD.
GOLETA, CA 93117

RECEIVED

AUG 14 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

RECEIVED

AUG 14 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Ex. Comm.
CALFED Bay Delta Program
1416 9th St, Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

MR. STEVE RITCHIE
CALFED BAY/DELTA PROGRAM
1416 NINTH STREET, SUITE 1155
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a fifth generation Santa Barbara County farmer. I am concerned about the future of farming in my area. I ask that you:

1. Lengthen the comment period;
2. Hold public hearings to explain the plan to us.

I do not believe CalFed has done enough to minimize farmland losses.

Sincerely,
Kenneth E. Doty

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am writing you to ask that the period to view and give comments on the CALFED EIR

I farm 100 acres of flowers in Santa Barbara County. I think CalFed should do habitat restoration on existing government owned land before it begins buying more land. The government already owns 1/2 the land in California. Most of the farmers care better stewards of the land than any public ownership.

There is no way I can take the time to go to the library and read 8500 pages in the Cal Fed EIR and still grow my crops. What we need is more surface storage dams.

Sincerely,
Dick LaTuc

copy to: Gov. Davis
Dianne Feinstein
Barbara Boxer
Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Hanna Beth Jackson
Jack O'Connell

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AUG 14 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Jim English
29415 County Road 28
Winters, CA 95694



Orange County Produce LLC

August 11, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS / EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

I am the President of Orange County Farm Bureau. This letter is to address my concern about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment on farms and ranches. Agriculture is an important part of California's environment. According to the latest EIR report Cal-Fed plans to convert nearly 250k acres of farmland to habitat and "other" uses. There needs to be an EIR done on the result of that land conversion. Cal-Fed must look for ways to avoid taking farmland out of production.

I know many farmers who enhance the wildlife of their farms. We are stewards of the land and we want to be partners in environmental restoration. But we also oppose requirements that dictate what, when and how to grow our crops. Cal-Fed must work with us in a cooperative spirit.

To maintain productive and wildlife friendly farms, farmers and ranchers need reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must move aggressively and swiftly to develop new water storage that provides adequate yield. Without more storage, California will not have enough water for the environment in dry years. Water will be taken away from farms, especially during drought situations. Without water farmland will lose its value as an environmental habitat and as a most vital food resource for California's growing population.

Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed needs to inform the citizens of this great state on how the plans have changed and how the "new" plans will affect our lives. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plans until the people have had adequate opportunity to review and comment upon it.

What California needs are enhancements to our water resources for the advancement of wildlife, agriculture and the health and well being of our general population. Developing water storage and conserving our precious agricultural land will enable Californians and wildlife to flourish into the next century.

Sincerely,

Al'an Price

August 11, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a Yolo County farmer I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request you give us more time to review and comment on your document. It is much too large to digest and much too complex to understand. I also request you hold hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers.

Water for farms is used to grow plants. Those plants give off oxygen and help clean the air. Farming provides wildlife habitat while producing food. I continue to pay taxes on that land and survive on the income. This farmland has been in my family for generations. It is sustainable. I am not destroying the environment; I am helping to preserve it.

Do we really want to lose thousands of acres of farmland in California and lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants? Right now, the government owns about half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private land. Why do you think that is? I have an answer. The animals like what we are doing. Our land and water is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land properly. Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,

Jim English

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Doug Ose
Yolo County Board of Supervisors

Governor Gray Davis
State Senator K. Maurice Johannessen
Assembly Member Richard Dickerson
Assembly Member Helen Thomson

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Heather Robinson
7000 S. Inland Dr.
Stockton, CA 95206

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

aug. 9 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie
Cal Fed Bay Delta program

we must stop importing food from other countries that have no requirements for food quality and low labor costs that Californians can't compete with.

I think California needs to store the winter rain water that rushes to the ocean ~~ocean~~ ^{OCEAN} and does nobody good. It should be stored and used in the summer when it would produce food.

Milton Zell

10712 N Shelton

Linden CA 95233

Cal-Fed has proposed to fix a system without addressing the causes of its problems. It ignores the San Joaquin River and its problems created mostly by the creation of the Central Valley Project and lack of a Central Drain.

Cal-Fed attempts to force the Delta farmers to fix a system, from the worst possible position. After land retirements, TMDL levels, and water-use efficiency programs, the Delta region stands to suffer the worst consequence of this state project.

Because ~~this~~ final draft EIS/EIR appears to differ greatly from earlier versions, Cal-Fed should schedule another round of public hearings. We also need additional time to evaluate this new environmental report.

August 2, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

In order to meet its environmental goals, Cal-Fed must more aggressively work to develop new water storage that provides adequate yield. The only way to guarantee sufficient water supply is to capture more of the high flows during wet winters - especially in above-ground reservoirs. The questionable reliability of underground storage proves simply insufficient and creates more problems than it solves.

Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have had adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

Heather Robinson
Stockton, Calif

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Richard Pombo
Governor Gray Davis
Senator Patrick Johnston
Assemblyman Mike Machado
San Joaquin Board of Supervisors

Tim Weststeyn
10707 W. Ripon Rd
Ripon CA 95366

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program



Mike G. Gikas
14022 S. AUSTIN RD.
MANTECA, CA 95336
(209) 823-4928

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

8-2-00

Mr Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CalFed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento CA 95814

Dear Mr Ritchie

Many farmers will gladly enhance the wild life value of their farms, and many

already do. We take seriously our role as stewards of the environment and
and want to be partners in restoration activities. However, farmers oppose requirements
that tell us what to grow and how to grow it. Cal Fed must work with farmers
in a cooperative spirit.

The government already owns half of California's 100 million acres

Cal Fed should conduct its habitat-restoration work on existing government
owned land and reduce its impact on productive farmland.

Because of these impacts on the environment of rural California and
because the Cal Fed plan appears to have changed as the result of
the "framework agreement" signed in June we need

Time To Evaluate The New Environmental Report.

Sincerely

Tim Weststeyn

Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Richard Pombo
Governor Gray Davis

Senator Patrick Johnston
Assemblyman Mike Machado
San Joaquin Board of Supervisors

August 8, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a San Joaquin County farmer. My family has owned and farmed in SJC Delta
since the late 1800's and in the Manteca area since the early 1920's.

The water we use to irrigate in the Manteca area comes from the Stanislaus water
shed. This water also feeds into the San Joaquin River which is our source of
irrigation water in SJC south Delta.

The Delta property provides habitat for fish and wildlife within the levee
system.

The government already owns half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the
wildlife exists on privately owned land. We have done a better job of main-
taining habitat than has the government.

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final
environmental report released July 21. Please hold public hearings to explain
this plan to us. The report is long, complicated and technical.

Sincerely,

Mike G. Gikas

cc: Governor Gray Davis
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
State Sen. Patrick Johnston
Rep. Richard Pombo
Assembly Member Mike Machado
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

MARTIN FARMS

Phone 209 / 835-5258 • Fax 209 / 835-7380 • 12067 West Lammers Road • Tracy, California 95376

August 10, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CalFed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report
released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so we who must
abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

I farm 500 acres of field crops near the south Delta in Tracy. We provide for wildlife in
our farming operation. Cal-Fed should conduct habitat-restoration work on existing
government-owned land before it begins acquiring more land.

The government already owns half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife exists on
privately owned land. We have done a better job of maintaining habitat than has the government.
We take seriously our roles of stewards of the environment and wish to be partners with the
government. Cal-Fed should encourage landowners to enhance voluntary habitat-conservation
efforts.

Cal-Fed needs to move more quickly to develop surface water storage with adequate yield to
accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs. Water conservation cannot make
the same strides it has made in the past. We will work to become more efficient, but drought will
take a serious toll on California's environment and economy unless new storage with additional
yield comes on line soon.

Sincerely,

Phillip Martin

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Richard Pombo
Governor Gray Davis

State Senator Patrick Johnston
Assemblyman Mike Machado
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Shade Farm Management
Box 957
Summersville, CA 93067

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CALFED Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Ste 1155
Sacramento, Ca 95814

August 3, 2000

Dear Mr Ritchie,

I am a farm manager and farmer in Santa Barbara, California. I am the fifth
generation of farmers in my family in this great state. As such, I am painfully
aware of water and its importance to the state. Regarding the CALFED EIR, I am
asking you to:

- please extend the comment period, I work over 80 hours per week and have
small children. I need more time to study this document!
- Please hold hearings to explain this document in plain English! My wife is a
paralegal and even she is having a tough time with it.

This plan is hugely important to the future of our state. Please give us more time
to study and comment on this plan.

Sincerely,

Rick Shade

Rick Shade

cc: Gov Davis
Dianne Feinstein
Barbara Boxer
Lois Capps
Hannah-Beth Jackson
Jack O'Connell
Judi Fitzgerald
Naomi Schwartz & Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors



Alameda County Farm Bureau
638 Enos Way, Suite 1 • Livermore, CA 94550-2117 • (925) 449-1677

August 10, 2000

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AUG 14 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

The Alameda County Board of Directors has many concerns about the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released in July. There needs to be more time to review this long environmental report. More public hearings need to be held to inform the people about, as the Cal-Fed plan admits, the "irreversible and irretrievable" impact on almost a quarter-of-a-million acres of California farmland with no plans to replace this lost valuable land.

Cal-Fed should be encouraging farmers to maintain voluntary habitat-conservation efforts without restricting the productivity of the land. However Cal-Fed interest in farmland seems to be directed in the value of sustaining fish and wildlife-not for its value in sustaining people.

Farmers are well aware of the need of enough available water to meet environmental goals, especially in dry years. The best way to achieve this goal is to have aboveground reservoirs to capture more of the high water flows during wet winters. Without such reservoirs, water will be taken away from farms to sustain environmental and urban uses during droughts.

These are just a few of our concerns and because the Cal-Fed plan appears to have changed as a result of the "framework agreement" signed in June-we feel there needs to be more time to evaluate the new report and more public hearings need to be held. This

would help to assure the public understands the plan before taking final action. It would also offer people another chance to express their points of view.

Sincerely,
Sue Russo
Sue Russo
Executive Manager

- cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Senator Barbara Boxer Governor Gray Davis
State Sen. Liz Figueroa State Sen. Don Perata State Sen. Richard Rainey
Rep. Barbara Lee Rep. Fortney Stark Rep. Ellen Tauscher
- Assembly Members:
Ellen Corbett
John Dutra
Lynne Leach
- Alameda County Supervisors:
Wilma Chan
Scott Haggerty
Mary King
Gail Steele
Keith Carson

Affiliated with California Farm Bureau Federation - American Farm Bureau Federation

FROM : PATA BROS FARMING

FAX NO. : 8857361889

Aug. 04 2000 09:55AM P1

Richard D. Pata
3500 Jalama Rd.
Lompoc CA 93436
805-736-1889

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AUG 14 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

P.O.B. 19
Clayton, Ca. 94517
925-672-7150
925-672-6441 (Fax)

9 August 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie,
Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth street (Suite 1155)
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

RE: FINAL PROGRAMMATIC EIS-EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

My family and I have been raising cattle in Contra Costa County since 1974. We are very concerned as to how the Cal-Fed plan will affect the economy, the environment and the livelihood of farmers and ranchers in California.

We are asking that you please extend the time to read the EIR released on July 21, 2000. One month is not sufficient time to read and interpret the plan. There should be public hearings so that farmers and ranchers who will have to abide by the plan will at least be able to understand completely how they will be affected.

We in agriculture take very seriously our roles as stewards of the land, and believe very strongly that Cal-Fed should encourage and support our efforts to enter into and maintain voluntary habitat conservation programs. We are very conscious of the wildlife on our lands and anything we provide for our livestock is shared by the wildlife such as water, salt, grains, hay and shelter. We in agriculture contribute greatly to a positive quality of life. If the Cal-Fed plan proceeds without further hearings and without input from the agricultural community, it will be agriculture which will be sacrificed and regulated to extinction.

Does California really want to lose hundreds of thousands of farmland acreage with the subsequent loss of habitat preservation. We would hope not.

The emphasis of Cal-Fed should be to deliver optimal surface water storage with the ability to accommodate the increased demands of an exploding population. In addition, the constant threat of drought years will take a serious toll on the California environment that only sufficient water storage efforts will help to ease.

Taking farmland out of production will only result in the loss of healthy, affordable foods, and the loss of many many jobs from rural California, and the domino effect of losing habitat protection. California will be left with nothing but over development and a severely diminished quality of life.

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AUG 14 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

*Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CALFED Bay/Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Ste. 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814
8-4-00*

*Dear Mr. Ritchie
My brother Kenny and I are third generation farmers and ranchers, raising beef cattle and Lima Beans.
It would be greatly appreciated if you would lengthen the comment period on your final Calfed EIS/EIR released July 21. Most people like ourselves work 60 hrs. a week or more and there is not enough time to adequately review the plan.
Also I would like to ask you to hold public hearings to explain this plan to us, it is a complicated and technical 6500 page report I have a lot of wildlife and habitat on my land that I would like to protect. I do not believe that Calfed has studied this enough.
Sincerely, Richard D. Pata
cc: Stover, Pata, Dianne Feinstein, Barbara Boxer, ...*

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C-029676

Mr. Steve Ritchie
Page 2
9 August 2000

Again, we only ask that you allow more time to review the plan. After all, this was released at a time when crop producers are in the most labor intensive part of their growing season. Please hold public hearings so those who will be most affected will have a chance to be heard. We are willing to form partnerships and work with Cal-Fed but only if we completely understand what it all means.

Thus far, we have managed water and lands very well, thereby providing a harmonious atmosphere for wildlife. We are the true conservationists. We only ask that you hold public hearings before the plan is finalized and you embark on a path from which there will be no turning back.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Jackie Stewart

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Governor Gray Davis
Assemblywoman Lynne Leach
Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher
Contra Costa County
Board of Supervisors
Assemblyman Tom Torlakson

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AUG 14 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 7, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a farmer in Solano County. I ask two things, and then shall comment on the document. The requests are:

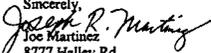
1. Extend the period to look through the document and provide comments on the final EIS/EIR released July 21. As a farmer I can't adequately review the thousands of pages in the document in the time allowed.

2. Hold public hearings to explain what you will do and the effects on us. Many changes were made to the report, which the public needs to have an opportunity to understand and discuss. I fear that even after we review the document there will be a lot that we won't understand. Even though you may not believe you are obligated to tell us how the plan will affect us, it's the right thing to do.

Comments: I believe that in trying to protect the environment, the Cal-Fed plan actually will harm it instead. Taking thousands of acres of land out of production will change the face of California agriculture dramatically. It will have a huge impact on the environment, not to mention local economies. When the land in private ownership stops providing food, a tax base and wildlife habitat, what happens to that land?

The farm environment where wildlife has gathered will be forever changed. Those crops won't be grown. Many species now occupy the acres of farmland Cal-Fed proposes to take out of production. They are there because of the habitat provided by farmers and ranchers. History shows that the government has not done a good job of protecting and repopulating these species. Cooperative arrangements with landowners have worked better.

The Cal-Fed plan is flawed. I am disappointed that Cal-Fed and its agencies have turned a deaf ear to the more than 1,000 representatives of agriculture who attended your 16 hearings last year. Of the 800 people who spoke, most were farmers and ranchers and their families and neighbors. These people are stewards of the environment, managing land and water that produces food, wildlife and oxygen.

Sincerely,

Joe Martinez
8777 Halley Rd.
Winters, CA 95694

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Senator Mike Thompson
Congressman Doug Ose Assemblywomen Helen Thomson

WILLARD G MORGAN
6040 MORGAN TERRITORY RD
CLAYTON, CA 94517-9724

August 11, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca 95814

RE: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a farmer and rancher in Contra Costa County. My family has been managing this land for the production of food and fiber, wildlife habitat enhancement, recreation, and other multiple uses.

Cal-Fed's plan to put nearly 250,000 acres into public ownership and none in multiple use management appears to be a very poor planning. The EIS/EIR for this plan apparently does not even address the economic effects of this "land grab" to the communities effected or realistically address the habitat changes to existing wildlife on these lands.

Cal-Fed should make an effort to work with the citizens of the state to solve the real problems, and not continue to attempt to achieve pre-conceived goals by acquiring vast acreage's of land and imposing your plans against the will of the citizens.

Sincerely,



Willard G. Morgan

Cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Gov. Gray Davis County Supervisors
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Richard Rainey
Representatives George Miller & Ellen Taucher
Assemblymembers Lynne Leach & Tom Torlakson

WM:slm

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AUG 14 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 8, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way, the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

But farmers can't provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,


Don Gordon
6060 Gordon Valley Rd.
Suisun, CA 94585

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Senator Mike Thompson
Congressman Doug Ose Assemblywomen Helen Thomson

Vereschagin Farms Inc.
3548 County Road P
Orland, CA 95963

August 13, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a farmer of 1,700 acres of orchards in Glenn County I have grave concerns with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR document.

I respectfully request that you give the public more time to review the document and allow us to comment on the document. Because of the complexity of the large document I ask that you hold public hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

Throughout the entire Cal-Fed process I am extremely troubled that new water storage has been a very low priority for increasing the states water supply. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to demand more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers.

The Cal-Fed plan to remove approximately 250,000 acres of farm land from production is unacceptable. Cal-Fed has not adequately addressed the environmental, economic, social and third party impacts that would result from this land conversion.

Again I request that you allow additional time for public comments and hold public hearings throughout the state before implementing the plan.

Sincerely,

Mike Vereschagin

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Senator Mike Thompson
Rep. Doug Ose Assembly Member Dick Dickerson
State Senator Maurice Johannessen



IMPERIAL COUNTY FARM BUREAU

1000 Broadway, El Centro, CA 92243 • Tel: (760) 352-3831 • Fax: (760) 352-0232

August 10, 2000

JAMES C. ROBERTS, INC.
PMB 514
1835A S. Centre City Pkwy.
Escondido, CA 92025-6504

Phone 760-738-2370
Fax 760-738-3903

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: FINAL PROGRAMMATIC EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

The Cal-Fed proposal to take nearly 250,000 acres of prime agriculture land out of production, to up-root numerous farming families and negatively impact numerous rural communities is unacceptable. Agriculture is an irreplaceable economic and environmental resource that provides numerous benefits to California citizens.

We know Cal-Fed's concern is supposed to be environmentally based, but the proposed solution is shortsighted. This proposal fails to deal with the real problem - overpopulation and over development of the coastal and near coastal metropolitan areas of San Francisco and surrounding towns. Unless serious steps are taken to control the impact of current development in the delta area and unless additional restrictions are placed on new development in the delta area, deterioration of the delta ecology will accelerate.

Instead the plan places most of the burden on farmers. Water in the rivers and reliable water supply are two of the main issues, yet no new significant above ground water storage is proposed to deal with drought years. This is a serious flaw in the proposed plan. Farmers and wildlife will both needlessly suffer in drought years from this shortsighted approach.

The brief comment period and the lack of public hearings are also of concern to our members. Cal-Fed is setting a dangerous precedence for all of the California agriculture, not just the Central Valleys.

Sincerely,

George Ray,
President

Cc: Governor Gray Davis
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Congressman Duncan Hunter
State Senator Dave Kelley
Assemblyman Jim Battin
Supervisor Bill Cole

Bill Pauli, President Calif. Farm Bureau Fed.
Judi Fitzgerald, Calif. Farm Bureau Fed.
Supervisor Wally Leimgruber
Supervisor Dean Shores
Supervisor Tony Tirado
Supervisor Tom Veysey

TO REPRESENT, PROTECT AND ADVANCE THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF THE FARMERS OF THE COUNTY, THE STATE AND THE NATION.

August 10, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

The Environmental Impact Report recently released by Cal-Fed does not adequately recognize the role agriculture has played in providing wildlife habitat. The government already owns half the land in California and yet 75 percent of the wildlife exists on privately owned land. Farmers have done a better job of maintaining habitat that has the government. Farmers have long been good stewards of the environment, and we think Cal-Fed should encourage landowners to enhance voluntary habitat conservation efforts.

Please extend the review period for the EIR and schedule more public hearings. This important issue deserves more public input.

Our water storage and supply need to be increased. Agriculture is a vital part of the state's economy. Without water agriculture cannot continue and thereby farmland loses its value as habitat and a vital food resource for a growing population.

I have been farming for over forty years in San Diego County, and our farm has provided natural habitat for a great variety of animals and birds through the years.

Sincerely,

James C. Roberts
/br

ROBINSON FARMS FEED COMPANY

7000 South Inland Drive • Stockton, California 95206-9621 • Fax (209) 466-7918 • Telephone (209) 466-7915

Jerry N. Robinson
3382 Carlin Road
Stockton, CA 95206

August 7, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 115
Sacramento, AC 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am concerned about the Cal-Fed programs that will affect the environment on my farm, and the delta area of San Joaquin County. Agriculture is an important part of California's environment. Cal-Fed plans to convert nearly a quarter of a million acres of farmland to habitat and other uses. Cal-Fed should study the environmental and economic impacts of that land conversion.

Farmers are stewards of the land, and we would rather participate in environmental restoration, than be forced out of business. We oppose requirements that tell us what to grow and how to grow it. Cal-Fed must work with farmers in a cooperative spirit.

To maintain productive and wildlife-friendly farms, farmers need reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must move aggressively to develop NEW water storage that provides REAL new water yields. Without more storage, California won't have enough water for the environment in dry years. That means water will be taken away from farms, especially during droughts.

The Cal-Fed plan has been substantially changed in the final document, Cal-Fed needs to hold public hearings before the proposal becomes finalized. The public needs more time to adequately review and understand the proposal.

Sincerely,

Jerry N. Robinson

cc: Governor Gray Davis
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
State Senator Patrick Johnston
Representative Richard Pombo
Assembly Member Michael Machado
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

August 7, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 115
Sacramento, AC 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am concerned about the Cal-Fed programs that will affect the environment on my farm, and the delta area of San Joaquin County. Agriculture is an important part of California's environment. Cal-Fed plans to convert nearly a quarter of a million acres of farmland to habitat and other uses. Cal-Fed should study the environmental and economic impacts of that land conversion.

Farmers are stewards of the land, and we would rather participate in environmental restoration, than be forced out of business. We oppose requirements that tell us what to grow and how to grow it. Cal-Fed must work with farmers in a cooperative spirit.

To maintain productive and wildlife-friendly farms, farmers need reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must move aggressively to develop NEW water storage that provides REAL new water yields. Without more storage, California won't have enough water for the environment in dry years. That means water will be taken away from farms, especially during droughts.

The Cal-Fed plan has been substantially changed in the final document, Cal-Fed needs to hold public hearings before the proposal becomes finalized. The public needs more time to adequately review and understand the proposal.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Robinson
President

cc: Governor Gray Davis
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
State Senator Patrick Johnston
Representative Richard Pombo
Assembly Member Michael Machado
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors



C - 0 2 9 6 7 9

C-029679

Michael S. Robinson
1970 Bowman Road
Stockton, CA 95206

Dona Mast
15455 Gottlob Mast Way
Esparto, CA 95627

August 7, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 115
Sacramento, AC 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am concerned about the Cal-Fed programs that will affect the environment on my farm, and the delta area of San Joaquin County. Agriculture is an important part of California's environment. Cal-Fed plans to convert nearly a quarter of a million acres of farmland to habitat and other uses. Cal-Fed should study the environmental and economic impacts of that land conversion.

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Sincerely,



Michael S. Robinson

cc: Governor Gray Davis
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
State Senator Patrick Johnston
Representative Richard Pombo
Assembly Member Michael Machado
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

August 11, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

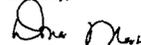
As a Yolo County farmer I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request you give us more time to review and comment on your document. It is much too large to digest and much too complex to understand. I also request you hold hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers.

Water for farms is used to grow plants. Those plants give off oxygen and help clean the air. Farming provides wildlife habitat while producing food. I continue to pay taxes on that land and survive on the income. This farmland has been in my family for generations. It is sustainable. I am not destroying the environment; I am helping to preserve it.

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Sincerely,



Dona Mast

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Doug Ose
Yolo County Board of Supervisors

Governor Gray Davis
State Senator K. Maurice Johannessen
Assembly Member Richard Dickerson
Assembly Member Helen Thomson

ROBINSON & DRURY

Diversified Farming

Jerry N. Robinson • Michael S. Robinson • Dale L. Drury

7000 So. Inland Drive • (209) 466-7915 • Stockton, Ca 95206



RIO BLANCO RANCH

J. N. ROBINSON, JR., PRESIDENT
7000 S. INLAND DRIVE PHONE 466-7915 STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA 95206

August 7, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 115
Sacramento, AC 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

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Sincerely,



Michael S. Robinson

cc: Governor Gray Davis
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
State Senator Patrick Johnston
Representative Richard Pombo
Assembly Member Michael Machado
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

August 7, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 115
Sacramento, AC 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

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Sincerely,



Jerry N. Robinson
President

cc: Governor Gray Davis
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
State Senator Patrick Johnston
Representative Richard Pombo
Assembly Member Michael Machado
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

LAFAYETTE RANCH

7000 S. INLAND DR.
STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA 95208-9621
(209) 486-7915

RECEIVED

AUG 14 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

*To Steve Ritchie
CalFed Bay/Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca, 95814
Date Aug 1, 2000*

August 7, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 115
Sacramento, AC 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am concerned about the Cal-Fed programs that will affect the environment on my farm, and the delta area of San Joaquin County. Agriculture is an important part of California's environment. Cal-Fed plans to convert nearly a quarter of a million acres of farmland to habitat and other uses. Cal-Fed should study the environmental and economic impacts of that land conversion.

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Sincerely,

Jerry N. Robinson
Vice President

cc: Governor Gray Davis
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
State Senator Patrick Johnston
Representative Richard Pombo
Assembly Member Michael Machado
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

*Dear Mr. Ritchie:
I am a Santa Barbara County Rancher. Our family has been on our land for 4 generations. This concerned about our future. Would you please give us more time. As we work, long hours on our ranch. We need to have a much longer comment period. We need to understand the CalFed EIS/EIR. We have adequately reviewed the 6,500 page report and it is very complicated & technical.*

*Sincerely
John Stetson
429 N.E.
Lompoc Ca. 93436*

C.C. Governor Davis

RICHARD W. MORGANTINI
MORGANTINI RANCHES
P.O. BOX 791
SANTA YNEZ CA 93460

RECEIVED

AUG 14 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Don Tompkins
P.O. Box 22
Guinda, CA 95637

August 3, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

My family has farmed in California since the mid 1800's when my great-grandfather immigrated from Switzerland. As a family farmer, I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request you give us more time to review and comment on your document. It is much too large to digest and much too complex to understand. I also request you hold hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers.

Water for farms is used to grow plants. Those plants give off oxygen and help clean the air. Farming provides wildlife habitat while producing food. Farming provides the food we all eat. Farming is a major economic force in our state's economy.

Do we really want to lose thousands of acres of farmland in California and lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants? Right now, the government owns about half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private land. Why do you think that is?

I have an answer. The animals like what we are doing. Our land and water is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land properly.

Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Morgantini

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Lois Capps
Governor Gray Davis
State Sen. Jack O'Connell
Assembly Member Hannah-Beth Jackson
Gail Marshall, Santa Barbara
County Supervisor

August 11, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a Yolo County farmer I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request you give us more time to review and comment on your document. It is much too large to digest and much too complex to understand. I also request you hold hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers.

Water for farms is used to grow plants. Those plants give off oxygen and help clean the air. Farming provides wildlife habitat while producing food. I continue to pay taxes on that land and survive on the income. This farmland has been in my family for generations. It is sustainable. I am not destroying the environment; I am helping to preserve it.

Do we really want to lose thousands of acres of farmland in California and lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants? Right now, the government owns about half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private land. Why do you think that is?

I have an answer. The animals like what we are doing. Our land and water is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land properly. Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,

Don Tompkins

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Doug Ose
Yolo County Board of Supervisors
Governor Gray Davis
State Senator K. Maurice Johannessen
Assembly Member Richard Dickerson
Assembly Member Helen Thomson

Eric Paulsen
202 Rancho Way
Woodland, CA 95695



Shasta County Farm Bureau

3605 Bechelli Lane • Redding, CA 96002 • (530) 223-2358 • E-mail: info@shastafarmbureau.com

August 10, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a member of Shasta County Farm Bureau, which represents over 1600 members, I must comment on the recent release of the final EIS/EIR regarding the Cal-Fed program. Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource within the state. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of valuable production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion, and needs to complete this task before drastically changing California's already sustainable agriculture environment.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation to ensure that the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time. In addition, Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield, as this is the backbone to ensuring the future of both. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

Public hearings need to be held to explain the plans before they become final, as well as telling us how this newly changed plan will affect people. The plan should not be finalized until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and make decisions based upon the facts.

Sincerely,

Richard Taylor
Shasta County Farm Bureau 2nd Vice President

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein	Governor Gray Davis	County Supervisor Hawes
Senator Barbara Boxer	State Sen. Maurice Johannessen	County Supervisor Wilson
Rep. Wally Herger	Assembly Member Dick Dickerson	County Supervisor Clarke
	County Supervisor Fust	County Supervisor Kehoe

August 11, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

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Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers.

Water for farms is used to grow plants. Those plants give off oxygen and help clean the air. Farming provides wildlife habitat while producing food. I continue to pay taxes on that land and survive on the income. This farmland has been in my family for generations. It is sustainable. I am not destroying the environment; I am helping to preserve it.

Do we really want to lose thousands of acres of farmland in California and lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants? Right now, the government owns about half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private land. Why do you think that is? I have an answer. The animals like what we are doing. Our land and water is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land properly. Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,

Eric Paulsen

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Doug Ose
Yolo County Board of Supervisors

Governor Gray Davis
State Senator K. Maurice Johannessen
Assembly Member Richard Dickerson
Assembly Member Helen Thomson



Shasta County Farm Bureau

3605 Bechelli Lane • Redding, CA 96002 • (530) 223-2358 • E-mail: info@shastafarmbureau.com

August 10, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a member of Shasta County Farm Bureau with over 1600 members, I feel I must comment on your recent release of the final EIS/EIR regarding the Cal-Fed program. I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

The government already owns half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife exists on privately owned land. We have done a better job of maintaining habitat than has the government. We take seriously our roles of stewards of the environment and wish to be partners with the government. Cal-Fed should encourage landowners to enhance voluntary habitat-conservation efforts.

Cal-Fed needs to move more quickly to develop surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs. Water conservation cannot make the same strides it has made in the past. We will work to become more efficient, but drought will take a serious toll on California's environment and economy unless new storage with additional yield comes on line soon.

Sincerely,

George Wold
Shasta County Farm Bureau Director

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein	County Supervisor Kehoe
Senator Barbara Boxer	County Supervisor Fust
Rep. Herger	County Supervisor Hawes
Governor Gray Davis	County Supervisor Wilson
State Senator Maurice Johannessen	County Supervisor Clarke
Assembly Member Dick Dickerson	



Shasta County Farm Bureau

3605 Bechelli Lane • Redding, CA 96002 • (530) 223-2358 • E-mail: info@shastafarmbureau.com

August 10, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a Shasta County farmer, I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request you give us more time to review and comment on your document. It is much too large to digest and much too complex to understand. I also ask that you hold hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, more sources need to be utilized. Do not take the water from the people responsible for feeding the nation.

Water for farms is used to grow plants, which results in the release of air cleaning oxygen. Farming also provides wildlife habitat while producing food. I continue to pay taxes on that land and survive on the income. This farmland has been in my family for generations. It is sustainable. I am not destroying the environment; I am helping to preserve it.

Do we really want to lose thousands of acres of farmland in California and lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants? Right now, the government owns about half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private land. Why do you think that is?

I have an answer. The animals like what we are doing. Our land and water is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land properly.

Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement such a devastating plan.

Sincerely,

Ivar Amcn
Shasta County Farm Bureau Director

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein	Governor Gray Davis	County Supervisor Clarke
Senator Barbara Boxer	State Sen. Maurice Johannessen	County Supervisor Fust
Rep. Wally Herger	Assembly Member Dick Dickerson	County Supervisor Wilson
	County Supervisor Hawes	County Supervisor Kehoe



277 Laurel Road
Oakley, California
August 11, 2000

August 10, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce this loss of valuable farmland.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way, the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time. But farmers can't provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

I think that Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plans until the public has adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

Bob Martin, General Manager, Rio Farms

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Sam Farr
Monterey County Supervisors

Governor Gray Davis
State Senator Bruce McPherson
Assemblyman Peter Frusetta

P.O. Box 605 • King City, CA 93930 • (831) 385-6225 • FAX (831) 385-0133

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am deeply concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR document. It is very complex. I am primarily concerned about the lack of storage of water. As our state's population continues to grow, more food will need to be produced to feed this expanding population. Increased food production is dependent upon additional water. I also have serious concerns about taking farmland out of production. Where will the food come from for our expanding population? Less land times less water does NOT EQUAL MORE FOOD!

Please hold public hearings to explain how this complex document will affect all of us.

Sincerely,

John H. deFremery

RECEIVED

AUG 14 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Carl Funke
7542 County Rd 44
Willows, CA 95988

August 12, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am writing you today to express my concern about the inadequate amount of time allocated for public comment on the Cal-Fed final report. Many of our concerns as farmers in the north state have not been adequately addressed in this final report and should be addressed before this plan is made final.

I have lived and farmed in this beautiful Sacramento Valley my whole life, and I have watched as our own public agencies have encouraged agriculture to expand acreage to make use of this great natural resource. This current Cal-Fed plan will take us backwards. There is no analysis of what effect taking 250,000 acres of farmland out of production will have on the economies of these rural communities, how it will effect the environment, how nonnative plant and animal species will be controlled on these properties, how state and federal agencies will have the monies or manpower to manage these properties, and where the water for this lost farmland will come from.

Water supplies are not adequate because of previously mismanaged State and Federal water projects. Lets not add to the problem by adding new projects and not first building new water supplies.

I would like to see Cal-Fed hold additional public hearings to explain it's plan and answer public questions before making this plan final.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carl Funke

cc: Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Diane Feinstein
Rep. Doug Ose
State Senator Maurice Johannessen
Assemblyman Dick Dickerson

Johnson Ranches
4400 Whispering Oaks Circle
Granite Bay, Ca. 95746

August 10, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I have been a rancher in Placer County for almost 55 years, and I am very concerned about your final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR document that was released on July 21, 2000.

The 6500 page report is far too long, complicated and technical for me, and others in the agricultural community to read and understand in the short period allotted to us to review and comment on the plan.

California ranchers and farmers have shown their willingness to conserve water and enhance wildlife habitat, but we fear Cal-Fed does not seem to understand our need to be able to count on reliable and adequate water at all times for our operations.

I do not believe Cal-Fed needs to purchase more land to provide habitat and water storage as we have more than enough government owned land for those uses.

Reason and common sense needs to be used when decisions are made as to how these properties are developed for their future use. New water storage facilities need to be developed now to provide water for livestock, poultry and crops. I do not believe people want to exist on a diet of salmon.

I ask you to lengthen the comment period for us and to hold public hearings through-out the state to explain your plan.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Barbara Johnson

Cc: Governor Gray Davis
Congressman John Doolittle
US Senator Dianne Feinstein
US Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Tim Leslie
Assemblyman Rico Otter
Placer County Board of Supervisors
CFBF Gary Sack

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C-029683

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AUG 14 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program



MONTEREY COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1449 Salinas, CA 93902

Phone: (831) 455-2600 Fax: (831) 455-2610 E-Mail: mocofb@redshift.com

8/11/00

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AUG 14 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Johnson Ranches
4400 Whispering Oaks Circle
Granite Bay, Ca. 95746

August 10, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a third generation rancher in Placer County, and I am concerned with your final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR plan released on July 21, 2000.

Your plan is very technical and complicated, and I would appreciate your giving more time to the period for comment. Also, public hearings should be held, before your implement the plan.

I have spent a lifetime conserving water and providing wildlife habitat on my property. I, and other ranchers and farmers need to be assured that adequate water supplies will be available for our operations now, and in the future. We must have water so that we can provide for our families and also care for the environment and wildlife.

California's population continues to grow so rapidly it is evident Cal-Fed must develop more water storage facilities immediately. If this is not done, the people, wildlife, and farmlands will suffer greatly in the future.

I hope your plan will accomplish this for the people of California.

Again, I ask you to hold public hearings to explain this plan, and to provide more time for comment.

Sincerely,

Cliff Johnson

Cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Governor Gray Davis
Congressman John Doolittle
Senator Tim Leslie
Assemblyman Rico Oller
Placer County Board of Supervisors
CFBF Gary Sack

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIS

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

The Monterey County Farm Bureau Board of Directors and its members are extremely concerned about how the Cal-Fed programs will impact the environment of our state's farms and ranches. The agricultural industry is the number one economic engine in our county and in our state, and we are a vital part of the environment of California. The proposed conversion of over a quarter million acres of farmland into habitat and other uses, without an analysis of the impacts of that type of land conversion is unconscionable! Your Cal-Fed program must seek ways to avoid this type of whole scale removal of California farmland from production!

As a third generation California farmer, myself the Cal-Fed proposal is not only logistically untenable to me, but arrogantly offensive to my very agricultural roots and the contribution of my parents and grandparents to Monterey County and California agriculture and the overall economy! Farmers and ranchers in our state are the premier stewards of our land, as it is our heritage and our legacy to the future. Our pioneering agricultural spirit must be allowed to continue in the most true sense, by allowing California farmers to have the freedom to innovate and grow our products and business without such invasive plans as your Cal-Fed proposal.

California agriculture needs a stable and affordable supply of water to maintain and increase our efficiency and productivity; but we must all work together to develop new water storage capacity within the state to deal with our long-range needs. Your plan as proposed would take away precious water from our state's farmers and ranchers in drought years, which would negatively impact not only agriculture, but also the habitat and the state's economy as well as that of the global consumers our agriculture also serves.

Cal-Fed needs to hold more public hearing to explain it's proposals, before they become final, and in these meetings explain to every citizen in the state how your plans will affect the people. As productive agricultural business representatives of California, we demand an opportunity to adequately review and comment on your proposals!

Sincerely,

Sharon Lanini, Executive Director

Cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Monterey Co. Board of Supervisors
Senator Barbara Boxer Senator Bruce McPherson Assemblyman Fred Keeley
Congressman Sam Farr Assemblyman Peter Fursetta

Hillebrecht Farms
2170 Skyline Drive
Escondido, CA 92027

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 10, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

The government already owns half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife exists on privately owned land. We have done a better job of maintaining habitat than has the government. We take seriously our roles of stewards of the environment and wish to be partners with the government. Cal-Fed should encourage landowners to enhance voluntary habitat conservation efforts.

Cal-Fed needs to move more quickly to develop surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs. Water conservation cannot make the same strides it has made in the past. We will work to become more efficient, but drought will take a serious toll on California's environment and economy unless new storage with additional yield comes on line soon.

Sincerely,

Ben Hillebrecht

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Assemblyman Howard Kaloogian
Senator Barbara Boxer Senator David Kelley Supervisor Bill Horn
Representative Randy Cunningham

August 8, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a Solano County farmer I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request you give us more time to review and comment on your document. It is much too large to digest and much too complex to understand. I also request you hold hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers.

Water for farms is used to grow plants. Those plants give off oxygen and help clean the air. Farming provides wildlife habitat while producing food. I continue to pay taxes on that land and survive on the income. This farmland has been in my family for generations. It is sustainable. I am not destroying the environment; I am helping to preserve it.

Do we really want to lose thousands of acres of farmland in California and lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants? Right now, the government owns about half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private land. Why do you think that is?

I have an answer. The animals like what we are doing. Our land and water is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land properly.

Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,

Sue Lippstreu
5194 Clayton Rd.
Suisun, CA 94585

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Senator Mike Thompson
Congressman Doug Ose Assemblywomen Helen Thomson

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Tulloch Ranch

28223 Highway 78
Ramona, CA 92065

August 10, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am concerned about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment on farms and ranches. Agriculture is an important part of California's environment. Cal-Fed plans to convert nearly a quarter of a million acres of farmland to habitat and other uses. It should study the environmental impact of that land conversion. Cal-Fed must seek ways to avoid taking rangeland out of production.

While this program has little effect on our ranching operation in San Diego County, the long term effects to agriculture in the state can be devastating. We protect the wildlife on our ranch while the public land habitat deteriorates to the point of non-use all around us.

I know many farmers who enhance the wildlife value of their farms. We are stewards of the land and we want to be partners in environmental restoration, but we oppose requirements that tell us what to grow and how to grow it. Cal-Fed must work with us in a cooperative spirit.

To maintain productive and wildlife-friendly farms, farmers need reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must move aggressively to develop new water storage that provides adequate yield. Without more storage, California won't have enough water for the environment in dry years. That means water will be taken away from farms, especially during droughts. Without water, farmland loses its value as habitat and as a vital food resource for California's growing population.

Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,



William Tulloch

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Brian Bilbray

Governor Gray Davis
Senator David Kelley

Assemblywoman Charlene Zettel
Supervisor Dianne Jacob

Kevin Steward

P.O. Box 1046
Walnut Grove, CA 95690

August 10, 2000

Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CAL-FED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

As a Sacramento County grape grower, I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request you give us more time to review and comment on your document. It is much too large to digest and much too complex to understand. I also request you hold hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

I am concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers.

Farming provides wildlife habitat while producing food. Water for farms is used to grow plants. Those plants give off oxygen and help clean the air. I continue to pay taxes on that land and survive on the income. This farmland is sustainable. I am not destroying the environment; I am helping to preserve it.

I do not believe we really want to lose thousands of acres of farmland in California and lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants. Right now, the government owns about half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private. Why is this?

The answer is simple. The animals like what we are doing. Our land and water is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land properly.

Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,



Kevin Steward

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AUG 14 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 14, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a farmer in San Benito County, I am both disappointed and quite concerned about the final language of the Cal Fed EIS/EIR. I had hoped that with agriculture's strong attendance and comments made at the many hearings last year that we could affect the final document. Just this last June, at an event east of Fresno, Senator Dianne Feinstein stated that Cal Fed was a done deal and that California Agriculture was heard and taken care of. I am sorry to say that this does not appear to be correct.

So we need to take another crack at making our points. We request that you extend the review period to study the document and make comments. And then we need the opportunity to clarify our position at additional public hearings.

California agriculture cannot and must not be put in the position of being short on water nor have its production acreage reduced. The final EIS/EIR calls for both.

It is high time that food production is awarded its rightful place in importance to the State of California and the Nation. The Final Programmatic EIS/EIR does not do so.

Sincerely,



Joe C. Zanger
General Partner

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis State Sen. Bruce McPherson
Representative Sam Farr Senator Barbara Boxer Assemblyman Peter Frusetta

Durling Nursery, Inc.

40401 DE LUZ ROAD • FALLBROOK, CALIFORNIA 92028-8553
(760) 728-9572 • FAX (760) 728-5835

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AUG 14 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 11, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

Our family has been farming southern California since 1926. We are currently growing container nursery stock on 350 acres in north San Diego County. We provide for wildlife in our farming operation. Cal-Fed should conduct habitat-restoration work on existing government-owned before it begins acquiring more land.

The government already owns half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife exists on privately owned land. We have done a better job of maintaining habitat than has the government. We take seriously our roles of stewards of the environment and wish to be partners with the government. Cal-Fed should encourage landowners to enhance voluntary habitat-conservation efforts.

Cal-Fed needs to move more quickly to develop surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs. Water conservation cannot make the same strides it has made in the past. We will work to become more efficient, but drought will take a serious toll on California's environment and economy unless new storage with additional yield comes on line soon.

Sincerely,



Don Durling

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Assemblyman Bruce Thompson
Senator Barbara Boxer CA Senator Bill Morrow Supervisor Bill Horn
Congressman Ron Packard

CASA de FRUTA®

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AUG 16 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 14, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a farmer in San Benito County, I am both disappointed and quite concerned about the final language of the Cal Fed EIS/EIR. I had hoped that with agriculture's strong attendance and comments made at the many hearings last year that we could affect the final document. Just this last June, at an event east of Fresno, Senator Dianne Feinstein stated that Cal Fed was a done deal and that California Agriculture was heard and taken care of. I am sorry to say that this does not appear to be correct.

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California agriculture cannot and must not be put in the position of being short on water nor have its production acreage reduced. The final EIS/EIR calls for both.

It is high time that food production is awarded its rightful place in importance to the State of California and the Nation. The Final Programmatic EIS/EIR does not do so.

Sincerely,



Joe C. Zanger
General Partner

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis State Sen. Bruce McPherson
Representative Sam Farr Senator Barbara Boxer Assemblyman Peter Frusetta



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AUG 16 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 14, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

My two partners and myself run a 5,000 acre cattle ranch in Alameda County. I am requesting that you extend the period of comment on the EIS/EIR released on July 21. The average farmer or rancher's free time is limited, and to review this lengthy report in the given time is unreasonable. I also request that there be public hearings so that some of the agricultural community's concerns can be addressed.

One of my main concerns is the amount of productive agricultural land that the plan would eliminate and the affect this will have on California's food production. The plan seems to be more directed to sustaining fish and wildlife with little regards to providing high quality food for the people of California. The government already owns half of California's 100 million acres. Cal-Fed should conduct their habitat program on that land and not take private land. Cal-Fed admits their plan will have "irreversible and irretrievable" impact on almost a quarter-of-a-million acres of California farmland.

The Cal-Fed plan will hurt California. The majority of speakers at the hearing last year were farmers and ranchers and they stated their concerns. It seems that nobody was listening. Maybe if there are new public meetings held they will be heard.

Sincerely:

Steve Russo
577 Jensen Street
Livermore, CA 94550

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| cc | Senator Dianne Feinstein | Senator Barbara Boxer | Governor Gray Davis |
| | State Senators: | Representatives: | Assembly Members: |
| | Liz Figueroa | Barbara Lee | Ellen Corbett |
| | Don Perata | Fortney Stark | John Dutra |
| | Richard Rainey | Ellen Tauscher | Lynn Leach |
| | Alameda County Supervisors: | | |
| | Wilma Chan | Scott Haggerty | |
| | Mary King | Gail Steele | |
| | Keith Carson | | |

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 14, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Ste 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

Cal-Fed must acknowledge that California farmland is a valuable environmental resource. The current plan would eliminate a quarter of a million acres of productive land! I don't believe that Cal-Fed has clearly thought through the environmental impact of this conversion. It is imperative that the proposed plan look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

We are in a unique time in our history with rapidly growing communities, environmental concerns, and an increasingly hostile attitude toward the good people that provide the food we eat, our farmers. We believe that all sides can be accommodated. That we can take care of both the farmers and the environment at the same time.

With the demand for water increasing due to development, etc. Cal-Fed has to develop water storage with adequate yield. This will assure water in dry years so that our food providers will be able to continue bring us the best food in the world.

I strongly urge Cal-Fed to hold public hearings and clearly explain its intentions before they are finalized. Cal-Fed should state its changes and the impact those changes will have on people. It would be appropriate for Cal-Fed to give us the opportunity to thoroughly review and discuss it.

Thank you for attention to this critically important issue.

Sincerely,

David and Veronica Roche
1725 Duchess Terrace
Brentwood, CA 94513

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein | Governor Gray Davis | Contra Costa County Supervisors |
| Senator Barbara Boxer | Senator Richard Rainey | Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher |
| Congressman George Miller | Assemblywoman Lynne Leach | Assemblyman Torlakson |



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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

"WORKING TO ENHANCE OUR WORLD"



United
Horticultural Supply

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program



August 10, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

I am writing to ask you to extend the time for farmers to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. A thousand page document cannot be adequately reviewed by any interested party in the time allowed. Additionally, I ask that you hold public hearings to explain the plan and how it affects us.

Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers. Cal-Fed should instead be working with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. As a farmer in San Diego County, I do not feel our concerns have been adequately addressed.

Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,

Janet Silva Kister
Sunlet Nursery, Inc.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein | Governor Gray Davis |
| Senator Barbara Boxer | State Sen. Ray Haynes |
| Rep. Ron Packard | Assembly Member Bruce Thompson |
| | County Supervisor Bill Horn |

August, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way, the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

But farmers can't provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

David Drucker



Shasta County Farm Bureau

3605 Bechelli Lane • Redding, CA 96002 • (530) 223-2358 • E-mail: info@shastafarmbureau.com

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 14, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

August 7, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a high school agriculture instructor, and member of Shasta County Farm Bureau, I must comment on the recent release of the final EIS/EIR regarding the Cal-Fed program. The Cal-Fed plan does not recognize California farmland as the valuable environmental resource within the state that it is. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of valuable agriculture production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion, and needs to complete this task before drastically changing California's already sustainable agriculture environment.

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation to ensure that the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time. In addition, Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield, as this is the backbone to ensuring the future of both. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms. As an agriculture instructor I know too well the importance of land conservation and water use, and I teach this daily to my students. Both are resources that need to be preserved for the years to come.

The government already owns half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife exists on privately owned land. We have done a better job of maintaining habitat than has the government. We take seriously our roles of stewards of the environment and wish to be partners with the government. Cal-Fed should encourage landowners to enhance voluntary habitat-conservation efforts.

A solution that I recommend is to hold public hearings to explain the plans before they become final, as well as telling us how this newly changed plan will affect people. The plan should not be finalized until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and make decisions based upon the facts.

Cal-Fed needs to move more quickly to develop surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs. Water conservation cannot make the same strides it has made in the past. We will work to become more efficient, but drought will take a serious toll on California's environment and economy unless new storage with additional yield comes on line soon.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Ian Anderson
6269 Birds Landing
Birds Landing, CA 94512

Shanah Lindahl
Shasta County Farm Bureau member
Instructor, Anderson Union High School

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Senator Mike Thompson
Congressman Doug Ose Assemblywomen Helen Thomson

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis County Supervisor Hawes
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Maurice Johannessen County Supervisor Wilson
Rep. Wally Herger Assembly Member Dick Dickerson County Supervisor Clarke
County Supervisor Fust County Supervisor Kehoe

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 14, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Do we really want to lose thousands of acres of farmland in California and lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants? Right now, the government owns about half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private land. Why do you think that is?

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

I have that answer. The wildlife happens to like what we are doing. We are preserving their habitat. Our land and water is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land properly.

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a Glenn County Farmer I am very concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request you give us more time to review and comment on your document. It is much too large to digest and much too complex to understand. I would also like to request you hold hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

It saddens me to think that our leaders don't understand the importance of our U.S. Farmers and Ranchers. They are willing to preserve endangered species, National Parks, but ignore the families that strive to feed the world. Please listen to our concerns! The implications of this plan not only affect my family, but yours!

Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers. In the early 1930's and 1940's our Country's leaders understood that water storage (dams) was a necessity to our success and existence of our citizens of the United States. It concerns me that our current leaders do not understand the importance of water storage!

Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Water for farms is used to grow plants. Those plants give off oxygen and help clean the air. Farming provides wildlife habitat while producing food. I continue to pay taxes on that land and survive on the income. This farmland has been in my family for twenty-eight years with hopes that our children will continue the family tradition. It is sustainable. I am not destroying the environment; I am helping to preserve it and teaching my children the importance of farming, not only for them, but also for our Country.

Sincerely,

Staci K. Buttermore
Buttermore Ranch Costa Lota

Buttermore Rancho Costa Lota
7068 County Road 24
Orland, CA 95963
(530) 865-3504
Buttermore@thegrid.net

Buttermore Rancho Costa Lota
7068 County Road 24
Orland, CA 95963
(530) 865-3504
Buttermore@thegrid.net

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MITCHELL'S TURKEY FARM
9651 Grant Line Rd.
Elk Grove, CA 95624
(916) 685-9700

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

MITCHELL TURKEY FARM
9651 Grant Line Road
Elk Grove, CA 95624

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a contract turkey grower in south Sacramento County. I ask two things, and then shall comment on the document. The requests are:

1. Extend the period to look through the document and provide comments on the final EIS/EIR released July 21. As a farmer I can't adequately review the thousands of pages in the document in the time allowed.
2. Hold public hearings to explain what you will do and the effects on us. Many changes were made to the report, which the public needs to have an opportunity to understand and discuss. I fear that even after we review the document there will be a lot that we won't understand. Even though you may not believe you are obligated to tell us how the plan will affect us, it's the right thing to do.

Comments: I believe that in trying to protect the environment, the Cal-Fed plan actually will harm it instead. Taking thousands of acres of land out of production will change the face of California agriculture dramatically. It will have a huge impact on the environment, not to mention local economies. When the land in private ownership stops providing food, a tax base and wildlife habitat, what happens to the land?

The farm environment where wildlife has gathered will be forever changed. Those crops won't be grown. Many species now occupy the acres of farmland Cal-Fed proposes to take out of production. They are there because of the habitat provided by farmers and ranchers. History shows that the government has not done a good job of protecting and repopulating these species. Cooperative arrangements with landowners have worked better.

The Cal-Fed plan is flawed. I am disappointed that Cal-Fed and its agencies have turned a deaf ear to the more than 1,000 representatives of agriculture who attended your 16 hearings last year. Of the 800 people who spoke, most were farmers and ranchers and their families and neighbors. These people are stewards of the environment, managing land and water that produces food, wildlife and oxygen.

Sincerely,

Ken W. Mitchell

KEN W. MITCHELL

Sensing Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Doug Ose
Governor Gray Davis
State Sen. Patrick Johnson
Assembly Member Anthony Pescetti

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a contract turkey grower in south Sacramento County. I ask two things, and then shall comment on the document. The request are:

1. Extend the period to look through the document and provide comments on the final EIS/EIR released July 21. As a farmer I can't adequately review the thousands of pages in the document in the time allowed.
2. Hold public hearings to explain what you will do and the effects on us. Many changes were made to the report, which the public needs to have an opportunity to understand and discuss. I fear that even after we review the document there will be a lot that we won't understand. Even though you may not believe you are obligated to tell us how the plan will affect us, it's the right thing to do.

Comments: I believe that in trying to protect the environment, the Cal-Fed plan actually will harm it instead. Taking thousands of acres of land out of production will change the face of California agriculture dramatically. It will have a huge impact on the environment, not to mention local economies. When the land in private ownership stops providing food, a tax base and wildlife habitat, what happens to the land?

The farm environment where wildlife has gathered will be forever changed. Those crops won't be grown. Many species now occupy the acres of farmland Cal-Fed proposes to take out of production. They are there because of the habitat provided by farmers and ranchers. History shows that the government has not done a good job of protecting and repopulating these species. Cooperative arrangements with landowners have worked better.

The Cal-Fed plan is flawed. I am disappointed that Cal-Fed and its agencies have turned a deaf ear to the more than 1,000 representatives of agriculture who attended your 16 hearings last year. Of the 800 people who spoke, most were farmers and ranchers and their families and neighbors. These people are stewards of the environment, managing land and water that produces food, wildlife and oxygen.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Mitchell

CHARLOTTE MITCHELL

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Doug Ose
Governor Gray Davis
State Sen. Patrick Johnson
Assembly Member Anthony Pescetti

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AUG 16 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 8, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way, the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

But farmers can't provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

Paul Lum

Paul Lum
7690 Timm Rd.
Vacaville, CA 95688

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Congressman Doug Ose
Governor Gray Davis
State Senator Mike Thompson
Assemblywomen Helen Thomson

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AUG 16 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 7, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a farmer in Solano County. I ask two things, and then shall comment on the document. The requests are:

1. Extend the period to look through the document and provide comments on the final EIS/EIR released July 21. As a farmer I can't adequately review the thousands of pages in the document in the time allowed.
2. Hold public hearings to explain what you will do and the effects on us. Many changes were made to the report, which the public needs to have an opportunity to understand and discuss. I fear that even after we review the document there will be a lot that we won't understand. Even though you may not believe you are obligated to tell us how the plan will affect us, it's the right thing to do.

Comments: I believe that in trying to protect the environment, the Cal-Fed plan actually will harm it instead. Taking thousands of acres of land out of production will change the face of California agriculture dramatically. It will have a huge impact on the environment, not to mention local economies. When the land in private ownership stops providing food, a tax base and wildlife habitat, what happens to that land?

The farm environment where wildlife has gathered will be forever changed. Those crops won't be grown. Many species now occupy the acres of farmland Cal-Fed proposes to take out of production. They are there because of the habitat provided by farmers and ranchers. History shows that the government has not done a good job of protecting and repopulating these species. Cooperative arrangements with landowners have worked better.

The Cal-Fed plan is flawed. I am disappointed that Cal-Fed and its agencies have turned a deaf ear to the more than 1,000 representatives of agriculture who attended your 16 hearings last year. Of the 800 people who spoke, most were farmers and ranchers and their families and neighbors. These people are stewards of the environment, managing land and water that produces food, wildlife and oxygen.

Sincerely,

Bill Petersen

Bill Petersen
5637 Creed Rd.
Suisun, CA 94585

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Congressman Doug Ose
Governor Gray Davis
State Senator Mike Thompson
Assemblywomen Helen Thomson

RECEIVED

AUG 16 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

COL. W SELZER USAF RET
1885 FIRST STREET
ATWATER, CA 95301-4107

August 8, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a Solano County grape grower I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request you give us more time to review and comment on your document. It is much too large to digest and much too complex to understand. I also request you hold hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers.

Water for farms is used to grow plants. Those plants give off oxygen and help clean the air. Farming provides wildlife habitat while producing food. I continue to pay taxes on that land and survive on the income. This farmland has been in my family for generations. It is sustainable. I am not destroying the environment; I am helping to preserve it.

Do we really want to lose thousands of acres of farmland in California and lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants? Right now, the government owns about half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private land. Why do you think that is?

I have an answer. The animals like what we are doing. Our land and water is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land properly.

Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,
Robert Carty
Robert Carty
5273 Gordon Valley Rd.
Suisun, CA 94585

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Senator Mike Thompson
Congressman Doug Ose Assemblywomen Helen Thomson

Jonathan M. Pinkerton
P. O. Box 4099
Ventura, CA 93007

Aug 10, 2000

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland and farm jobs.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers and ranchers on voluntary habitat conservation which would thereby help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

However, farmers and ranchers can not provide habitat or supply food without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years and therefore, water won't have to be taken away from California's farms.

In the attempt of being "fair" and "democratic", Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to help explain it's plans before they are finalized. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan will affect peoples lives. Cal-Fed

August 11, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director,
CALFED Delta/Bay Program

Dear Steve:

Don't be misled by the letterhead. Those of us who served in the military were not born with a blue suit on, neither do we keep it on after we are too old to fly. Hence the return to farming.

Personally I'm worried that my farm will go out of production due to legislated action by CALFED Or OTHERS. During the period 1950 through 1970 we were able to get enough water to flush the salt from our soil about every 5 to 10 years. The breakdown of granite in the mountains releases salt, (Sodium Chloride) that comes in with the irrigation water, and settles in the soil. Eventually it gets to be of a strength that kills roots of the crops. Before that happened, we farmers would get enough water at the end of an irrigation season to flush the water deeply into the soil, clearing it for the crops to come. At the same time, we were recharging the aquifers beneath. Wells stood at 50 to 60 feet beneath the surface. Today we often have to drill to 240 feet or deeper to get water for the cattle.

The tendency of the various agencies involved with the water division seems to be, "use a minimum of water for crop production. Ship the water that isn't used for crops out to cities, wildlife refuges, or to improve the quality of water in the streams." All of this is fine in principle, but fails to follow Mother Nature's way of making land available for mankind to use. Flooding isn't flushing the farmland any more. The land low enough to receive the spring rush of runoff has been taken over by developers, and yearly we see the miles and miles of housing built on each water.

Water doesn't run uphill. The best engineers can't change that. We must get the planning engineers to put the development on land above the water runoff level. Our farms accepted the occasional flooding that was unplanned. Now, instead of that we have cities building percolation basins to recharge the aquifers, while the soil from 4 feet down to the aquifer stays dry for years, and for miles and miles.

Please, can we have some of these meetings on water allocation timed to occur when the farmer isn't planting, cultivating, or harvesting. During winters the farmer can attend and offer much that isn't taught in the universities, yet is of valuable future use by the entire human race.

Thanks for taking the time to read this.

William R. Selzer

Should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it. Thankyou.

Sincerely,

Jonathan "Josh" Pinkerton
1st vice-chair Young Farmers & Ranchers program

To Steve Ritchie
Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program

Cal-Fed Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA, 95814

PO 7667
Chico, CA.
95927
8/13/00

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

I am a small farmer in the lower Sacramento Valley. This farm being on the Sacramento River is dependant on it for irrigation water. I am very concerned about the apparent lack of concern for addressing the need for added water storage. The existance of water storage is the reason for the growth in California to this point. The present supply is being stretched to it's limit and without additional water supply California will cease to grow.

Water is the major ingredient for sustained life of any plant, fish or human being. The Cal-Fed program needs to again be reviewed by the public. No matter how strongly we feel about the sustaining of our environment, an even stronger feeling should be how we sustain the agriculture that supplies the means of life. The farmer should be the LAST one to have water supplies cut. Let's play fair and give the public, whom the Cal-Fed program will affect, have a say before its final enactment.

This means people, industry, farmers and infrastructure. Already city subdivisions if short of water are not allowed to be built. There are many sites for water storage available to be developed. I hope this will be taken in consideration.

Sincerely,

David P. Welein
Grape Farmer

Sincerely,

Wayne Hine
Rt. 1, Box 600
Knights Landing, Ca., 95645

Robert A. Williams
6700 Rawson Rd.
Corning, CA. 96021

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AUG 18 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program



Aug. 16, 2000

TEHAMA
COUNTY
FARM
BUREAU

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA. 95814

Re. Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

To Whom it may concern:

Hello, my name is Matthew Claverie. I will be graduating from Cal State Chico with a B.S. in Integrated Plant Systems, my plans thereafter are to return here to the Imperial Valley to farm. My family has been farming here for four generations where it has taken the majority of a century to obtain what it is we still work with. I have many concerns about my future here and how Cal-Fed will be affecting my future

My concerns are with the amount of land being proposed, the speed at which this proposal is taking place, and the irreversible affects of where these big city plans are going to take us. It is important that more public hearings take place before any rash decisions are made for us. It is also important to me that more specific information may be public to the land owners and that we may have more time to review the specifics of these plans before they are enacted.

Being one of the largest and best agriculture area's in the world you would think that decisions of this stature would be decided with or by the farmers of this state. It sounds to me that Cal-Fed is doing their best to work around the farmers instead of with them.

Finally, I must say something about our water. Water is a main concern every farmer thinks about daily. This kind of speedy acting on Cal-Fed's part concerns me because it seems like another way to get water away from farms and possibly into the hands of some water districts for their personal good. Farming is getting tougher and it seems everybody is getting tougher on the farmer so before anything is finalized citizens should have adequate opportunity to review the specifics and given time for comments and criticism.

Sincerely
Matthew R. Claverie

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

As a farmer in the Sacramento Valley, I realize the value of California farmland as an environmental resource. Cal-Fed must also recognize this fact. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. I feel that Cal-Fed has not given enough serious thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion.

My family, as well as my neighbors who are also involved in agriculture take a great deal of pride in the fact that we not only provide food for the growing population, but also, provide habitat for a number of wildlife species. Without farmland, and the men and women who act as stewards of the land they work and love, the entire state would suffer.

Farmers however, cannot provide food and habitat without water. For this reason, I cannot stress the need for additional storage in California. This additional storage could provide the needed water for cities, as well as the environment in dry years.

Finally, I would like to stress the need for public hearings to explain the effects of the plan before it becomes final.

Sincerely,

Bus (530) 527-7882
Fax (530) 527-6028

645 Antelope Blvd., Suite 17
Folsom, California 95630

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C-029690

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AUG 18 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 17, 2000

Robert Ramming
P.O. Box 1921
Woodland, CA 95776

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AUG 18 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 15, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I farm 175 acres of citrus and avocados in San Diego County. I would like to make a few requests.

1. **Extend the period to review the document and provide comments on the final EIS/EIR released July 21.** There is no way to adequately review the thousands of pages in the document in the time allowed
2. **Hold public hearings to explain what you plan to do and the effects on us.** Many changes were made to the report, which the public needs to have and opportunity to understand and discuss. I fear that even after we review the document there will be much that we will not understand. I believe that it is the proper thing to tell us how the plan will affect us.

My family has been farming in the same location in San Diego County for three generations. I fear that if changes are not made to the current Cal-Fed plan like including the development of surface water storage, there will be nothing to be passed on to my families fourth generation. Water conservation cannot accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs, there must be development of more water storage.

I believe that in trying to protect the environment, the Cal-Fed plan actually will harm it instead. Taking thousands of acres of land out of production will change the face of California agriculture dramatically. It will have a huge impact on the environment, not to mention local economies. The government already owns half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife exists on privately owned land. Farmers and ranchers have done a better job of maintaining habitat than has the government. We take seriously our roles of stewards of the environment. Cal-Fed should encourage landowners to enhance voluntary habitat-conservation efforts.

The Cal-Fed plan is flawed. I am disappointed that Cal-Fed and its agencies have turned a deaf ear to the more than 1,000 representatives of agriculture who attended your 16 hearings last year. Of the 800 people who spoke, most were farmers and ranchers and their families and neighbors. These people are stewards of the environment, managing land and water that produces food, wildlife, and oxygen.

Sincerely,



Douglas K. Anderson

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Supervisor Horn
Senator Barbara Boxer

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Ste. 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

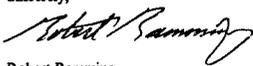
Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I have concerns about the Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released last month. I fear that the lack of sufficient new water storage facilities will mean that water will be taken from agricultural use. I am concerned about the huge loss of farmland under the plan. Loss of farmland will undermine the ag infrastructure (both physical and economic) which will hurt farming operations in and around the Bay-Delta area. My own farm may not be directly affected by the Cal-Fed plan, but adverse impacts to our local ag economy can indirectly hurt everyone in our county.

Given the complexity and size of the plan, I am concerned about the short time allowed for public comment and the lack of public hearings. This raises the suspicion that something is being railroaded through which would not hold up under thoughtful examination.

Cal-Fed is an ambitious public undertaking. Shouldn't the process allow for more involvement by the public? I hope you will extend the time for public comment and implement public hearings.

Sincerely,



Robert Ramming

cc: Governor Gray Davis
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Doug Ose
State Senator Maurice Johannessen
Assembly Member Helen Thomson
Yolo County Board of Supervisors

August 16, 2000

Mr Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal Fed Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie

I farm approx. 500 acres in Tehama County raising cattle and growing olives & hay.

I urge you strongly to extend the period to review and comment on the final EIS/EIR released July 21. The current deadline is simply not enough time. A document of this magnitude must be given time and exposure to public hearings.

A sound agricultural base in our economy is a necessity not a luxury. Our Country's sovereignty and well being is base on our ability to produce adequate food supplies. Many aspects of the Cal Fed plan jeopardizes our ability to produce the food we need.

Removing 250 thousand acres of land from production of food & fiber is insane and unnecessary. The dramatic environmental change alone will displace and harm many species of wildlife this plan says it wants to protect.

Rural Communities and farmers and ranches have suffered greatly in the past 20 years for the "benefit of environment" with little actual improvement to many environmental situation. This plan will be devastating to these same people unnecessarily. Government working "with" farmers to enhance wildlife habitat is what get results. Rarely does Government alone produce desirable results.

The Only way to realistically provide water for future California is to move aggressively to develop surface water storage from winter run off.

So much of California is already under government ownership or control, adding more will not solves problems but only create more. I urge you again to give more time for citizen review and comment on this plan

Sincerely

David Lester

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AUG 22 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 16, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

document in time allowed. Please give us a reasonable amount of time to review this important document.

Sincerely,
Mark Black
Tehama County Farm Bureau Member
Agricultural agency employee.

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am concerned about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment on farms and ranches. Agriculture is a vital part of California's economy and environment. Cal-Fed plans to convert nearly a quarter of a million acres of farmland to habitat and other uses. I strongly urge you to study the environmental impact of that land conversion. It should be one of Cal-Fed's charges to affect farm lands as little as possible. Who will feed the children if not the farmers.

Most farmers want to enhance wildlife values on their farms and do without having government direction.

Agriculture has spoken but I do not believe you have heard us or considered our proposals.

I strongly urge you to extend the period to look through the documents and provide comments on the final EIS/EIR released July 21, 2000. I cannot adequately review the thousands of pages in the

August 18, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Who will make up the loss in taxes if this land is taken out of production? What governmental agency will cut their budget to make up the loss?

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

Farmers can not provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage for adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years and benefit everyone.

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

Jerry E. Duarte
P.O. Box 269
Knightsen, Ca. 94548

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein · Governor Gray Davis · County Sup. Joe Cancimilla
Senator Barbara Boxer · State Sen. Richard Rainey
Rep. George Miller · Assemblywomen Lynne Leach

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AUG 22 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Tri-Counties Young Farmers and Ranchers

Name Cassi J. Lawson
Address 24289 Bascom Rd.
Millville, CA 94062

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AUG 22 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

RE: CAL-FED Final EIS/EIR

August 17, 2000

Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CALFED Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a member of the Tri-Counties Young Farmers and Ranchers, I feel it is necessary to respond to your recent release of the Cal-Fed final EIS/EIR report. I am concerned about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment and vitality on farms and ranches not only throughout the state, but also those located within Shasta, Tehama, and Lassen counties.

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. Your proposed plan will take out nearly 250,000 acres of production agriculture. There has not been enough thought put into the long-term effects of this drastic land conversion.

In addition, there needs to be an emphasis on surface water storage and point of origin labeling. Water stored needs to be readily available to the farmers and ranchers within the area that it originates in times of need. Raising the Shasta Dam is not going to alleviate the problem of accessible water in the central and southern valley, instead more high flows from wet winters need to be contained and stored in above ground reservoirs to insure that there is enough water in drought conditions.

I think that Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. It is your responsibility to tell us how its plan has changed and how it will effect the people before making a final decision that could be irreversible and inretrievable.

Sincerely,

Member, Tri-Counties Young Farmers and Ranchers

Additional Comments:

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein · Governor Gray Davis · State Assembly Sam Anested
Senator Barbara Boxer · State Senator Maurice Johannessen · State Assembly Dick Dickerson
Rep. Wally Herger · State Senator Tim Leslie

16 August 2000

P.O. Box 628
Red Bluff CA 96080



TEHAMA COUNTY FARM BUREAU

August 16 2000

John Rolfe
11350 Paskenta Rd.
Red Bluff CA. 96080

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AUG 22 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RECEIVED

AUG 22 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr. Steve Ritchie
Acting Executive Director
CAL-FED Bay-Delta Program
1416 NINTH ST. SUITE 1155
SACRAMENTO, CA. 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie

Dear Mr. Ritchie

The Cal Fed plan needs to look for
new ways to reduce the loss of farmland. Also
Cal Fed must develop water storage

I am writing to ask you to extend the time
to read and comment on the Final Environmental
Report released July 21. I also believe CAL-FED
should hold public hearings on the plan.
CAL-FED needs to move fast to increase surface
water storage, such as damming smaller
streams to accommodate increasing population
and environmental needs.

Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan
until citizens have ample opportunity to
review it.

Drought will take a serious toll on CAL-
IFORNIA'S ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY UNLESS NEW
STORAGE WITH ADDITIONAL YIELD COMES ON LINE
SOON.

Sincerely
Frank H. Johnson

Sincerely
John O. Rolfe

cc Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Doug Loe

Governor Gray Davis
State Senator Maurice Jones
Assembly Member Dick Dickerson
Tehama Co. Supervisors

Bus: (530) 527-7882
Fax: (530) 527-6028

645 Antelope Blvd., Suite 17
Red Bluff, California 96080

KLINE ORCHARDS

Norman and Bj Kline
P.O. Box 1345, Riverbank, CA 95367
Phone: 209-863-1224 Mobil: 209-531-3446
Fax: 209-863-1337 E-mail: nak1943@aol.com

RECEIVED

AUG 22 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 9, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a fourth generation peach grower in Stanislaus County, I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request you give me more time to review and comment on your document. It is much too large to digest and much too complex to understand. I also request you hold hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers.

Water for farms is used to grow plants. Those plants give off oxygen and help clean the air. Farming provides wildlife habitat while producing food. I continue to pay taxes on that land and survive on the income. This farmland has been in my family for generations. It is sustainable. I am not destroying the environment, I am helping to preserve it.

Do we really want to lose thousands of acres of farmland in California and lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants? Right now, the government owns about half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private land. Why do you think that is?

I have an answer. The animals like what we are doing. Our land and water is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land properly.

Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,
Norman A. Kline

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Senator Barbara Boxer State
Sen. Dick Monteith Rep. Gary Condit Assemblyman George House
Stanislaus County Supervisors

Hollandale Dairy
5829 River Road
Oakdale, CA 95361

RECEIVED

AUG 22 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 9, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way, the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

But farmers can't provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,
Pete Dykzeul

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Dick Monteith Rep. Gary Condit
Assembly Member George House
Stanislaus County Supervisors

RECEIVED

AUG 22 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program



CENTRAL EVERGREEN CO.

GROWER & DISTRIBUTOR OF DECORATIVE GREENS

5713 Shoemaker Modesto, CA 95358

Tom Orvis
Star Route Box 360
Farmington, CA 95230

August 9, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a Stanislaus and Calaveras rancher. My family has been on this land for five generations. We are concerned about the future. I ask that you:

1. Give us more time to review and comment on the final Cal-Fed environmental report released July 21. I work more than 60 hours a week on my operation and there is not enough time to review the plan.
2. Please hold public hearings to explain this plan to us. The report is long, complicated and technical.

I am concerned about this document, as I understand it so far. I have lots of wildlife and habitat on my operation. I know that other farmers do, too. If Cal-Fed acquires several hundred thousand acres of land as planned, it will be detrimental to habitat.

I do not believe that Cal-Fed adequately studied the effects of such a large-scale land conversion. I do not believe Cal-Fed tried hard enough to minimize farmland losses.

Sincerely,

Tom Orvis

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
 State Sen. Dick Monteith Rep. Gary Condit
 Stanislaus County Supervisors

Senator Barbara Boxer
 Assemblyman George House

RECEIVED

AUG 22 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 9, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way, the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

But farmers can't provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

Floyd H. Rydalch

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
 Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Dick Monteith Rep. Gary Condit
 Assembly Member George House
 Stanislaus County Supervisors

5713 Shoemaker Modesto, CA 95358 Office (209) 577-3243 Ranch (209) 523-0261 Fax (209) 549-1451



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AUG 22 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

P.O. Box 976
Westley, Ca 95387

Stewart Bradley
11124 Walnut Ave.
Oakdale, CA 95361

August 9, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way, the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

But farmers can't provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

Janine Goubert

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
 Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Dick Monteith Rep. Gary Condit
 Assembly Member Dennis Cardoza
 Stanislaus County Supervisors

August 9, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a Stanislaus County farmer, I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request you give us more time to review and comment on your document. It is much too large to digest and much too complex to understand. I also request you hold hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers.

Water for farms is used to grow plants. Those plants give off oxygen and help clean the air. Farming provides wildlife habitat while producing food. I continue to pay taxes on that land and survive on the income. This farmland has been in my family for generations. It is sustainable. I am not destroying the environment; I am helping to preserve it.

Do we really want to lose thousands of acres of farmland in California and lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants? Right now, the government owns about half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private land. Why do you think that is?

I have an answer. The animals like what we are doing. Our land and water is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land properly.

Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,

Stewart Bradley

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
 Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Dick Monteith Rep. Gary Condit
 Assembly Member George House
 Stanislaus County Supervisors

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AUG 22 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program



RONALD MARTELLA FARMS, INC.

920 Charles Road, Hughson, California 95326
Phone: (209) 883-4819 Fax: (209) 883-0819
FED ID #44-2385194

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AUG 22 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 9, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a Stanislaus County farmer. I am a third generation farmer on this land. I am concerned about the future. I ask that you:

1. Give us more time to review and comment on the final Cal-Fed environmental report released July 21. I work more than 60 hours a week on my operation and there is not enough time to review the plan.
2. Please hold public hearings to explain this plan to us. The report is long, complicated and technical.

I am concerned about this document, as I understand it so far. I have lots of wildlife and habitat on my operation. I know that other farmers do, too. If Cal-Fed acquires several hundred thousand acres of land as planned, it will be detrimental to habitat.

I do not believe that Cal-Fed adequately studied the effects of such a large-scale land conversion. I do not believe Cal-Fed tried hard enough to minimize farmland losses.

Sincerely,

Kevin Chiesa

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Dick Monteith Rep. Gary Condit
Assembly Member George House
Stanislaus County Supervisors

Martella's Walnut Huller • Nut Sweeping & Harvesting • Prunille Towers • Ramochar Paris House

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AUG 22 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Al Brizard
18006 Locust Avenue
Patterson, CA 95363

August 9, 2000

MR. STEVE RITCHIE, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CAL-FED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM
1416 NINTH ST., SUITE 1155
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a Westside Stanislaus County walnut grower, I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request you give us more time to review and comment on your document. It is much too large to digest and much too complex to understand. I also request you hold hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers.

Water for farms is used to grow plants. Those plants give off oxygen and help clean the air. Farming provides wildlife habitat while producing food. I continue to pay taxes on that land and survive on the income. This farmland has been in my family for generations. It is sustainable. I am not destroying the environment; I am helping to preserve it.

Do we really want to lose thousands of acres of farmland in California and lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants? Right now, the government owns about half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private land. Why do you think that is?

I have an answer. The animals like what we are doing. Our land and water is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land properly.

Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,

AL BRIZARD

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Senator Barbara Boxer
State Sen. Dick Monteith Rep. Gary Condit Assemblyman Dennis Cardozo
Stanislaus County Supervisors

Chiesa Ranch Inc.

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AUG 22 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

VICTOR D. TOGNAZZINI

August 4, 2000

Almond, Walnut and Peach Growers
8607 John Fox Rd.
Hughson CA 95326

Ph # (209)883-2916
Fax # (209)883-9480

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CALFED Bay/Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am writing to ask you to extend the period in which we may view and provide comments on the final CalFed EIS/EIR released July 21, 2000. This is so vastly important an issue for California, not only for this generation, but also for generations to come, that all of us, as citizens, cannot afford a rush to judgment. I would further request that public hearings be held on the plan so that we, who will be subject to its mandate, can understand how we will be affected.

My family has farmed, ranched and protected habitat for three generations on our family ranch in eastern Santa Barbara County. I am also a Farm Labor Contractor and have farming interests in the Santa Maria Valley where my livelihood and the livelihoods of all farmers and ranchers depend on a continued supply of water. We have seen the population forecasts for the future and we know that we must be able to feed that burgeoning population. To do that, provisions must be made for surface water storage facilities. I am dismayed when I hear the echoes from past drought years of establishing water conservation methods in the urban areas. Those conservation methods that were possible were taken, and have continued to be used. New conservation methods will not come easy, nor will the results be as dramatic. Water conservation became a great political "mantra" that brought us "gray water" gardens and bricks in commode tanks. Certainly, some work may be done in urban water conservation, but what of the farm? The irrigation practices of agriculture in the key growing areas of our state are at the cutting edge of technological efficiency.

I have not had time yet to digest this latest plan and will not have time if the comment period is not extended. I did, however, join with over 1000 representatives of agriculture who attended your 16 CalFed hearings last year. I was one of the 800 people, mostly agriculturists, who spoke at those hearings. I am deeply disappointed that CalFed and its operating agencies have seemingly turned a deaf ear to us. I know that there is a sincere effort being made to protect the environment, but you need to listen to those closest to the land, those whose lives have been lived protecting the environment. To follow the dreams and schemes and experiments of well-meaning academic environmentalists, will ultimately destroy that which we all want to protect. Please give us time to respond to this latest installment and please listen to what we have to say. All Californians, our food supply and our environment will be the beneficiaries.

Sincerely,

Victor D. Tognazzini

Cc: Governor Gray Davis, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer,
Congresswoman Lois Capps, State Senator, Jack O'Connell, Assemblyman Abel Maldonado,
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

4650 BASQUE DRIVE • SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA • 93455
PHONE: (805) 924-5352 • FAX: (805) 922-8719

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C-029695



TEHAMA COUNTY FARM BUREAU

8-16-2000

Steve Ritchie
P.O. Box 8194
Red Bluff, Ca. 96080

RECEIVED

AUG 18 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr. Steve Ritchie
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA. 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a small farmer and rancher in rural Northern California, I believe the Cal-Fed program needs to be aware of what a valuable resource farm and range land is. These areas feed the state and nation's population and provide wildlife habitat at the same time. This cannot be done with out adequate, affordable and reliable water supply.

Cal-Fed should hold public meetings/hearings to explain its plans before any final documents are drawn up. We need to know and be able to comment on the plan, after all it effects our ability to be productive and beneficial stewards of the land. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have had the time and opportunity to review this large document.

Sincerely,
Jim Wolk

Bus: (530) 527-7882
Fax: (530) 527-6028
645 Antelope Blvd., Suite 17
Red Bluff, California 96080

The Bejoca Co.

Farm and Landscaping Management, Installation & Maintenance

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TEL (760) 728-5176
FAX (760) 728-2138

P.O. BOX 2168
Fallbrook, CA 92088-2168

August 10, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way, the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

But farmers can't provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Wolk Jr.

Charles J. Wolk Jr.

Cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Ray Haynes
Rep. Ron Packard Assembly Member Bruce Thompson
County Supervisor Bill Horn

Mr. Steve Ritchie
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sacramento Ca. 95814

RECEIVED
AUG 18 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so that we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

The Cal-Fed plan acknowledges it will have an irreversible and irretrievable impact on almost a quarter-of-a-million acres of California farmland. Yet Cal-Fed offers no plan to replace this lost land, simply referring to farmland losses as "unavoidable". The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland,
ACE SWARMON

August 15, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am very concerned about the limited time the public has to respond to the final Cal-Fed plan. A program with the tremendous potential impacts on the environment, the economy, and California agriculture of this one should not go into effect without adequate disclosure. It is essential that the public have the opportunity to understand this document and respond. Therefore I request that you extend the public comment period and hold public hearings explaining the changes in the final plan since the "framework agreement" and their impacts.

As an organic farmer and winery owner in the Napa Valley I consider myself a strong environmentalist. Farmers are and have historically been the best stewards of the land. Removing thousands of acres of farmland from production is not the solution to our water and environmental problems.

Agriculture is essential to the economy and quality of life of this state. The evaluation of the costs and benefits of the Cal-Fed programs has to reflect this reality. There are sensible solutions, which encourage a cooperative effort between farmers, the government, and environmentalists.

Sincerely,

Sally Kimsey

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Supervisor Mel Varrelman
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Wesley Chesbro
Rep. Mike Thompson Assemblywoman Pat Wiggins

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AUG 18 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 15, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I ask two things, and then shall comment on the document. The requests are:

1. Extend the period to look through the document and provide comments on the final EIS/EIR released July 21. As a farmer I can't adequately review the thousands of pages in the document in the time allowed.
2. Hold public hearings to explain what you will do and the effects on us. Many changes were made to the report, which the public needs to have an opportunity to understand and discuss. I fear that even after we review the document there will be a lot that we won't understand. Even though you may not believe you are obligated to tell us how the plan will affect us, it's the right thing to do.

Comments: I believe that in trying to protect the environment, the Cal-Fed plan actually will harm it instead. Taking thousands of acres of land out of production will change the face of California agriculture dramatically. It will have a huge impact on the environment, not to mention local economies. When the land in private ownership stops providing food, a tax base and wildlife habitat, what happens to that land?

The farm environment where wildlife has gathered will be forever changed. Those crops won't be grown. Many species now occupy the acres of farmland Cal-Fed proposes to take out of production. They are there because of the habitat provided by farmers and ranchers. History shows that the government has not done a good job of protecting and repopulating these species. Cooperative arrangements with landowners have worked better.

The Cal-Fed plan is flawed. I am disappointed that Cal-Fed and its agencies have turned a deaf ear to the more than 1,000 representatives of agriculture who attended your 16 hearings last year. Of the 800 people who spoke, most were farmers and ranchers and their families and neighbors. These people are stewards of the environment, managing land and water that produces food, wildlife and oxygen.

Sincerely,

Michele Lasgoity
Madera County Farm Bureau Director

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Madera County Supervisors
 Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Richard Monteith Senator Jim Costa
 Rep. George Radanovich Assemblyman George House Assemblyman Dean Florez

Nobody wants another war, and the best way to avoid one is to be thoroughly prepared. The U.S. is not going to be as well prepared if California takes part of its already inadequate supply of farm water and dedicates it to new wetlands. Farmers are not having an easy time now, competing against imported food grown and processed with cheaper labor, less stringent chemical regulations, and NAFTA.

A specific example of my concern is illustrated on Page 1-4 of the Water Transfers Program Plan where CalFed states there "may" be a shortage of storage in the state. Later on this page it states that transfers will work optimally only when the amount of storage is substantially increased. (CalFed's words, my emphasis). In spite of that, CalFed just cannot seem to bring itself to the admission that the last several editions of Bulletin 160 were correct when they warned the public and its government that the state is going to be dreadfully short of water in dry years unless considerable new storage and yield is constructed.

CalFed's solution seems to build not enough new water yield to take care of the new wetlands, additional in-stream desires and the growth in cities, but to take water away from the already water-short farms.

No one should have to wonder why farmers can't endorse this plan, so herewith, I render my objection to the plan and my plea for CalFed to hold hearings on this plan, in agricultural areas. We are not one of the groups that are "getting better together".

Sincerely,

William I. DuBois

RECEIVED

AUG 18 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

3939 Walnut Ave. #144
Carmichael CA 95608
August 16, 2000

RECEIVED

AUG 18 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CalFed Bay Delta Program
1416 - 9th Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento CA 95814

Subject: July, 2000, EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

My ancestors, I, and my descendants (5 generations) have owned and operated a farm, entirely dependent on irrigation, since 1917. We have grown most kinds of domestic meat animals, several kinds of fiber, oil seed, vegetable, forage, sugar and citrus crops on our property. It has also produced, but not for market, burrowing owls, gophers and kangaroo rats, (owls have to eat, too), pheasants, egrets, buzzards, black crested night herons, dove, blackbirds, hawks, orioles, sea gulls, and in the early days, many rattlesnakes.

The purpose of our farm is not to raise wildlife, but to make a profit. However, we greatly enjoy the always fluctuating populations of non-market animals that are supported by our farm.

I have read a great portion of CalFed's voluminous EIR/S. Much of what it proposes is great, but the things most important to me and my family are way off the mark of good, long-range planning. The plan proposes reducing farm water to serve cities and wildlife. I grant you that growing cities and restoring wildlife habitat requires more water, but increased population needs more food, and that takes more farm water. Otherwise, our farm produce exports will decline, and the U.S. will be more dependent on other countries for a greater part in satisfying our food and fiber needs.

I am sensitive to that prospect, because I was a participant in WWII and am aware that the United States was always able to feed its own people. Its allies were partially dependent on U.S. grown supplies, and after the war we fed our former enemies for a while until they got back on their land and seas.

August 16, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Exec. Dir
CalFed Bay Delta Program
1416 9th St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: FINECS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

My husband and I ranch in Shasta & Lassen counties.

We feel that the direction of the CalFed decision is wrong, and that you should not allow Governor Davis and Secretary of Interior Babbitt make a decision that will be so harmful, no, detrimental, to California agriculture and our rural communities.

There is no way we can get through this document by your deadline. We urge you to extend the deadline to July 21, 2001.

- 1) Explain what the impacts of your decisions will be; and
- 2) Listen and respond to comments given.

Sincerely,



12635 Hwy 99E
Red Bluff, Ca 96080
8/16/00

Mr. Steve Ritchie
Cal-Fed Bay Delta Program

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

California's farmland is its most valuable resource.

Cal-Fed in their plan has not given enough thought regarding land conversion. We must ~~not~~ reduce the loss of farmland. Farmers can't provide habitat or feed people without a reliable and affordable source of water. Cal-Fed needs to develop adequate water storage.

Cal-Fed should hold public hearings before its plans are finalized. - and farmers need to be included!

Thank you for your serious consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,
Mary Wiggins



Aug 16, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie Acting Director
Cal-Fed Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth St Suite 1155
Sacramento Calif 95814

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AUG 18 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Dear Mr. Ritchie
California farmland is a valuable resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. The Cal-Fed plan needs to look for a way to stop loss of Farm Land. Farmers must have reliable and affordable water. The best way is by storage. Storage will guarantee water for farming and cities. Cal Fed needs to hold more meetings explaining their plan because storage is not in the plan.

Sincerely
William H. Johnson
PO Box 453
Los Molinos CA 96055

Bus (530) 527-7882
Fax (530) 527-6028
645 Antelope Blvd., Suite 17
Red Bluff, California 96080

Bus (530) 527-7882
Fax (530) 527-6028
645 Antelope Blvd., Suite 17
Red Bluff, California 96080

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a concerned land owner in Sacramento County. I ask two things, and then shall comment on the document. The request are:

1. Extend the period to look through the document and provide comments on the final EIS/EIR released July 21. As a farmer I can't adequately review the thousands of pages in the document in the time allowed.
2. Hold public hearings to explain what you will do and the effects on us. Many changes were made to the report, which the public needs to have an opportunity to understand and discuss. I fear that even after we review the document there will be a lot that we won't understand. Even though you may not believe you are obligated to tell us how the plan will affect us, it's the right thing to do.

Comments: I believe that in trying to protect the environment, the Cal-Fed plan actually will harm it instead. Taking thousands of acres of land out of production will change the face of California agriculture dramatically. It will have a huge impact on the environment, not to mention local economies. When the land in private ownership stops providing food, a tax base and wildlife habitat, what happens to the land?

The farm environment where wildlife has gathered will be forever changed. Those cops won't be grown. Many species now occupy the acres of farmland Cal-Fed proposes to take out of production. They are there because of the habitat provided by farmers and ranchers. History shows that the government has not done a good job of protecting and repopulating these species. Cooperative arrangements with landowners have worked better.

The Cal-Fed plan is flawed. I am disappointed that Cal-Fed and its agencies have turned a deaf ear to the more than 1,000 representatives of agriculture who attended your 16 hearings last year. Of the 800 people who spoke, most were farmers and ranchers and their families and neighbors. These people are stewards of the environment, managing land and water that produces food, wildlife and oxygen.

Sincerely,
Robert Mitchell

Robert Mitchell

cc. Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Patrick Johnson
Rep. Doug Ose Assembly Member Anthony Pescetti

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a concerned land owner in Sacramento County. I ask two things, and then shall comment on the document. The request are:

1. Extend the period to look through the document and provide comments on the final EIS/EIR released July 21. As a farmer I can't adequately review the thousands of pages in the document in the time allowed.
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The Cal-Fed plan is flawed. I am disappointed that Cal-Fed and its agencies have turned a deaf ear to the more than 1,000 representatives of agriculture who attended your 16 hearings last year. Of the 800 people who spoke, most were farmers and ranchers and their families and neighbors. These people are stewards of the environment, managing land and water that produces food, wildlife and oxygen.

Sincerely,
Carol Mitchell

Carol Mitchell

cc. Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Patrick Johnson
Rep. Doug Ose Assembly Member Anthony Pescetti

2081 Hidden Ranch Road
Somerset, California 95684

August 12, 2000

RECEIVED
AUG 17 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As an El Dorado County emu rancher and a state and national director for our industry association, I am concerned about the future of our state. The Cal-Fed EIS/EIR was released on July 21, 2000, with little time allowed for public or written comment. I respectfully request that you extend the time to review and comment on your document and program. I also request that you hold hearings to explain the effects of the Cal-fed program for agriculture and to listen to the property owners and farmers in our state.

Throughout this entire process of hearings and attempts to read the highly technical, tedious document, I have been concerned about the loss of water, loss of farmland, the lack of adequate water storage, and the loss of wildlife and habitat that thrives on private lands. Currently, the government owns approximately one-half of the land in California, while 75% of the wildlife habitat prefer to live on private lands where farmers are good stewards.

It appears to me that you are being shortsighted in your plan to remove nearly a quarter million acres of California farmland, calling it "unavoidable". Cal Fed must plan strategically and look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland by conducting its habitat-restoration on existing government-owned land.

As California's population increases requiring more food and water, the additional water needed should come from storage, not farmers. Farmers understand adequate, available water is needed especially during drought years. Capturing more of the high flows during wet winters, especially in above ground reservoirs, assures water for farms to grow plants and livestock providing food, a vital resource for a rapidly growing population. Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as an essential and valuable natural resource of global importance.

Sincerely,

Sharyn Felts

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Congressman John Doolittle
Secretary William J. Lyons, Jr.
USDA Secretary Dan Glickman

Governor Gray Davis
Senator Tim Leslie
Assemblyman Rico Oller
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

Families Protecting the
Valley

1930 Howard Road, Suite 121
Madera, CA 93637

John Simpson, President
Charmie Johnson, Vice President
Richard Ison, Secretary
Robert Feythous, Treasurer

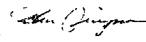
Steve Ritchie
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 9th Street, Ste 1155
Sacramento, CA

July 26, 2000

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

Families Protecting the Valley is a local Madera County organization formed to fight the proposed Madera Ranch Groundwater Bank resurrected by Azurix/Enron. We join the long list of organizations, entities and elected officials that are opposed to the Madera Ranch Groundwater Bank (MRGB). The MRGB has been exposed as technically flawed, unable to succeed in that area of Madera County without damage to the communities of Madera County AND seeks to bank, export and sell our Sierra Nevada water from the Friant Unit of the Central Valley Project. As soon as the water begins to leave our community, it will never stop and our economic health will begin its downward spiral. Water is the bluegold of our communities; we must control our natural resources for use here in the San Joaquin Valley. We are fighting for nothing less than our livelihood and livelihood of our children. Nothing about this project is beneficial to local interests and therefore, the MGRB has NO LOCAL SUPPORT. Be assured that we are long term residents of Madera County, passionate about our way of life and therefore, we will not sway in our determination to fight the Madera Ranch Groundwater Bank.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,


John Simpson, President
Families Protecting the Valley

 SAN BENITO COUNTY FARM BUREAU
August 11, 2000

 SAN BENITO COUNTY FARM BUREAU
August 13, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am concerned about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment on farms and ranches. Agriculture is an important part of California's environment. Cal-Fed plans to convert nearly a quarter of a million acres of farmland to habitat and other uses. It should study the environmental impact of that land conversion. Cal-Fed must seek ways to avoid taking farmland out of production.

I know many farmers who enhance the wildlife value of their farms. We are stewards of the land and we want to be partners in environmental restoration. But we oppose requirements that tell us what to grow and how to grow it. Cal-Fed must work with us in a cooperative spirit.

To maintain productive and wildlife-friendly farms, farmers need reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must move aggressively to develop new water storage that provides adequate yield. Without more storage, California won't have enough water for the environment in dry years. That means water will be taken away from farms, especially during droughts. Without water, farmland loses its value as habitat and as a vital food resource for California's growing population.

Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

Anthony Botelho, President

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis County Supervisors
Senator Barbara Boxer State Senator Bruce McPherson
Rep. Sam Farr Assembly Member Peter Frusetta

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

The government already owns half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife exists on privately owned land. We have done a better job of maintaining habitat than has the government. We take seriously our roles of stewards of the environment and wish to be partners with the government. Cal-Fed should encourage landowners to enhance voluntary habitat-conservation efforts.

Cal-Fed needs to move more quickly to develop surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs. Water conservation cannot make the same strides it has made in the past. We will work to become more efficient, but drought will take a serious toll on California's environment and economy unless new storage with additional yield comes on line soon.

Sincerely,

Gary Gonzales, Past President

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis County Supervisors
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Bruce McPherson
Rep. Sam Farr Assembly Member Peter Frusetta

April 11, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic WIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Agriculture is part of the environment -- the land, water and air we all need to thrive. California farmland is a natural resource of global importance. Cal-Fed plans to acquire or control hundreds of thousands of acres of California farmland, mainly for fish and wildlife habitat. Cal-Fed has not done enough to study the environmental impact of this large-scale land conversion. And Cal-Fed has not looked seriously enough for ways to reduce farmland losses.

Cal-Fed should conduct its habitat-restoration work on existing government-owned land and reduce its impact on productive farmland. Government already owns half of California's 100 million acres.

Farmers can run wildlife-friendly, productive farms only if they have adequate, reliable, affordable water. Without water, farmland loses its value both as habitat and as a vital food resource for California's growing population.

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,


Paul Hain, Treasurer

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Grey Davis County Supervisors
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Bruce McPherson
Rep. Sam Farr Assembly Member Peter Frusetta

August 11, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way, the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

But farmers can't provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

Thomas Tobias, Vice President



cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis County Supervisors
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Bruce McPherson
Rep Sam Farr Assembly Member Peter Frusetta

AUG 17 '00 03:27PM

P.1

Red J.

33654 Couser Canyon Road
Valley Center, CA, 92082

August 15, 2000

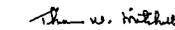
Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

I am very unhappy with the decision of you people at Cal-Fed not to hold public hearings on your final environmental report released on July 21st, and also with the very limited time that you have allowed people to study and then respond to this report in writing.

Rather than appropriating a quarter of a million acres of private farmlands, Cal-Fed should use these funds to develop more surface water storage to prepare for future draught years that will surely come.

Water conservation has been and will continue to be an important factor but your plan relies on conservation far too heavily and does not adequately address the need for new storage.

Sincerely,


Thomas W. Mitchell

GAMBLE  **GAMBLE**
P.O. BOX 678 • FT. HELENA • CALIFORNIA • 94574
TEL: 707 • 963 • 3637 FAX: 707 • 963 • 3632

August 17, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814
FAX 916-654-9780

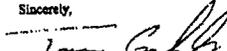
Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I farm 750 acres of winegrapes in Napa County. I ask two things:

1. Extend the period to look through the document and provide comments on the final EIS/EIR released July 21. Thirty days is not adequate time for a citizen to review the thousands of pages in the document in the time allowed.
2. Hold public hearings to explain what you will do and the effects on us. Many changes were made to the report, which the public needs to have an opportunity to understand and discuss. I fear that even after we review the document there will be a lot that we won't understand. Even though you may not believe you are legally obligated to tell us how the plan will affect us, it's the moral and right thing to do.

Sincerely,


Tom Gamble

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Mike Thompson
Governor Gray Davis
State Senator Wes Chesbro
Assembly Member Pat Wiggins
Mel Varelman, Chair, Napa County Supervisors



**KERN COUNTY
FARM BUREAU, inc.**

801 South Mount Vernon Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93307-2048
Phone: (861) 397-9635 - Fax: (861) 397-3403
Web: kerncfb.com - E-mail: kcfb@kerncfb.com

Douglas F. Carter
President

Dennis J. Atkinson
1st Vice-President

Peter Belluomini
2nd Vice-President

Loron J. Hodge
Executive Director

Cal-Fed Public Hearings
Page 2.

We think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

Douglas F. Carter
President

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Bill Thomas and Calvin Dooley
Governor Gray Davis
State Sen. Jim Costa, Charles Poochigian and Pete Knight
Assembly Member Roy Ashburn and Dean Florez
Kern County Board of Supervisors

August 11, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way, the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

But farmers can't provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

1914 86 Years Of Service To Agriculture 2000

Page Two

Senator Barbara Boxer
Congressman Doug Ose
Governor Gray Davis
State Senator Johannessen
Assemblyman Dick Dickerson
Sutter County Supervisors

August 16, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

RE: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21st. We also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan. To allow us who must abide by the Bay-Delta Program to understand how we fit into the plan.

We farm about 1000 acres of rice and walnuts in Yuba and Sutter Counties. Over 400 acres of the rice ground is flooded after harvest each year to provide habitat for waterfowl. Cal-Fed should conduct habit-restoration work on existing government owned land before it begins to acquiring more land.

Government owns half the land in California now, yet 75 percent of wildlife exists on privately owned land. We take seriously our roles in caring for our land and environment.

Cal-Fed needs to move quickly to develop more surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs of California. Water conservation cannot make the same strides it has in the past, and will not meet the needs of the growing population in the State.

We will work to become more efficient, but drought will take a serious toll on California's economy and environment in the near future unless new storage with additional yields come on line soon.

As a director of Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau and a State Director for California Farm Bureau Federation I urge you to consider this request.

Sincerely,

James H. Marler

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein

Bert and Betty Venger

4364 San Pasqual Way • Escondido, CA 92025-7544 • Home: 760-747-3827 • Fax: 760-747-3827 • E-mail: vengerdairy@aol.com

Aug. 14, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA, 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

Please hold open hearings on the Cal-Fed Delta Program to explain to us farmers how the plan has changed and how it will affect us, our farmland and the population. Help us in San Diego County to get more water storage here.

Sincerely:

Bert Venger

cc. Senator Dianne Feinstein Charlene Lettel
David G. Kelly

August 14, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am concerned about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment on farms and ranches. Agriculture is an important part of California's environment. Cal-Fed plans to convert nearly a quarter of a million acres of farmland to habitat and other uses. It should study the environmental impact of that land conversion. Cal-Fed must seek ways to avoid taking farmland out of production.

I know many farmers who enhance the wildlife value of their farms. We are stewards of the land and we want to be partners in environmental restoration. But we oppose requirements that tell us what to grow and how to grow it. Cal-Fed must work with us in a cooperative spirit.

To maintain productive and wildlife-friendly farms, farmers need reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must move aggressively to develop new water storage that provides adequate yield. Without more storage, California won't have enough water for the environment in dry years. That means water will be taken away from farms, especially during droughts. Without water, farmland loses its value as habitat and as a vital food resource for California's growing population.

Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

Scott Adelsbach

Scott Adelsbach
Madera County Farm Bureau Director

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Madera County Supervisors
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Richard Monteith Senator Jim Costa
Rep. George Radanovich Assemblyman George House Assemblyman Dean Florez

Water Mountain Ranch Co.

POST OFFICE BOX 249
PAJUNA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA 92061
OFFICE & FAX: 760-742-4477 • RESIDENCE: 760-742-1651

August 15, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I farm 175 acres of citrus and avocados in San Diego County. I would like to make a few requests.

1. **Extend the period to review the document and provide comments on the final EIS/EIR released July 21.** There is no way to adequately review the thousands of pages in the document in the time allowed
2. **Hold public hearings to explain what you plan to do and the effects on us.** Many changes were made to the report, which the public needs to have and opportunity to understand and discuss. I fear that even after we review the document there will be much that we will not understand. I believe that it is the proper thing to tell us how the plan will affect us.

My family has been farming in the same location in San Diego County for three generations. I fear that if changes are not made to the current Cal-Fed plan like including the development of surface water storage, there will be nothing to be passed on to my families fourth generation. Water conservation cannot accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs, there must be development of more water storage.

I believe that in trying to protect the environment, the Cal-Fed plan actually will harm it instead. Taking thousands of acres of land out of production will change the face of California agriculture dramatically. It will have a huge impact on the environment, not to mention local economies. The government already owns half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife exists on privately owned land. Farmers and ranchers have done a better job of maintaining habitat than has the government. We take seriously our roles of stewards of the environment. Cal-Fed should encourage landowners to enhance voluntary habitat-conservation efforts.

The Cal-Fed plan is flawed. I am disappointed that Cal-Fed and its agencies have turned a deaf ear to the more than 1,000 representatives of agriculture who attended your 16 hearings last year. Of the 800 people who spoke, most were farmers and ranchers and their families and neighbors. These people are stewards of the environment, managing land and water that produces food, wildlife, and oxygen.

Sincerely,
Craig R. Anderson

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Supervisor Horn
Senator Barbara Boxer



Shasta County Farm Bureau

3605 Beckett Lane • Redding, CA 96002 • (530) 223-2358 • E-mail: info@shastafarmbureau.com

August 10, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a member of Shasta County Farm Bureau with over 1600 members, I feel I must comment on your recent release of the final EIS/EIR regarding the Cal-Fed program. I am asking you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. In addition, I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the scheme of things

The government already owns half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife exists on privately owned land. Landowners have done a better job of maintaining habitat than has the government. We take seriously our roles of stewards of the environment and wish to be partners with the government. Cal-Fed should encourage landowners to enhance voluntary habitat-conservation efforts, not take away land that belongs to somebody else.

Cal-Fed needs to move more quickly to develop surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs. Water conservation cannot make the same strides it has made in the past. We will work to become more efficient, but drought will take a serious toll on California's environment and economy unless new storage with additional yield comes on line soon. Capturing high flows from wet winters and storing them in above ground reservoirs is an appropriate solution to this widespread problem.

Sincerely,

Cindy McCarthy

Cindy McCarthy
Shasta County Farm Bureau Director

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein County Supervisor Kehoe
Senator Barbara Boxer County Supervisor Fust
Rep. Herger County Supervisor Hawes
Governor Gray Davis County Supervisor Wilson
State Senator Maurice Johannessen County Supervisor Clarke
Assembly Member Dick Dickerson



Shasta County Farm Bureau

3605 Bechell Lane • Redding, CA 96002 • (530) 223-2358 • E-mail: info@shastafarmbureau.com

August 10, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a member of Shasta County Farm Bureau representing over 1600 members, I feel it is necessary to comment on your recently released EIS/EIR for the Cal-Fed plan. I am concerned about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment on farms and ranches. Not only is Agriculture vital to the well being of California's environment, it is also the number one industry. According to the EIS/EIR, Cal-Fed plans to convert nearly a quarter of a million acres of farmland to habitat and other uses. Before it takes this drastic step, it should study the environmental impact of that land conversion.

As a farmer I understand that wildlife habitat is crucial in keeping our land profitable. We are stewards of the land and we want to be partners in environmental restoration. But we oppose requirements that tell us what to grow and how to grow it based upon what is deemed important. Cal-Fed must work with us in a cooperative spirit, with the same goals in mind.

Concurrently, to maintain productive and wildlife-friendly farms, farmers need reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must move aggressively to develop new water storage that provides adequate yield. Without more storage, California won't have enough water for the environment in dry years. That means water will be taken away from farms, especially during droughts. Without water, farmland loses its value as habitat and as a vital food resource for California's growing population.

Cal-Fed needs to hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. It's responsibility should be in clarifying questions, and addressing concerns by the citizens that are going to be affected by drastic changes in their land use and availability of water. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it, comment on it, and make some educated decisions on the future of water in California.

Sincerely,

Christine McArthur
Shasta County Farm Bureau Director

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis County Supervisor Kehoe
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Maurice Johannessen County Supervisor Wilson
Rep. Wally Herger Assembly Member Dick Dickerson County Supervisor Fust
County Supervisor Hawes



Shasta County Farm Bureau

3605 Bechell Lane • Redding, CA 96002 • (530) 223-2358 • E-mail: info@shastafarmbureau.com

August 10, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As one of over 1600 members of Shasta County Farm Bureau, I feel I must comment on your recently released EIS/EIR regarding the Cal-Fed proposal. I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the lengthy final environmental report released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

Cal-Fed should help conduct habitat-restoration work on existing government-owned land before it begins acquiring more land. The government already owns half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife exists on privately owned land. We, as farmers, have done a better job of maintaining habitat than has the government. We take seriously our roles of stewards of the environment and wish to be partners with the government. Cal-Fed should encourage landowners to enhance voluntary habitat-conservation efforts than set aside their own conservation methods, rather than taking matters into their own hands.

Efforts need to be more focused towards developing surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs of California. We are always working to become more efficient, but drought will take a serious toll on California's environment and economy unless new storage with additional yield comes on line soon.

Please take into consideration these points that I have addressed when making a decision that will ultimately affect not only California, but the nation as a whole. Take the time to address these issues before you drastically change our environment.

Sincerely,

Tom Loftus
Shasta County Farm Bureau Director

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis County Supervisor Hawes
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Maurice Johannessen County Supervisor Wilson
Rep. Wally Herger Assembly Member Dick Dickerson County Supervisor Clarke
County Supervisor Kehoe



28318 AVENUE 14 1/2 • MADERA CALIFORNIA 93637 • PHONE (209) 674-8270

August 14, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

Cal-Fed should conduct habitat-restoration work on existing government-owned land before it begins acquiring more land.

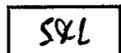
The government already owns half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife exists on privately owned land. We have done a better job of maintaining habitat than has the government. We take seriously our roles of stewards of the environment and wish to be partners with the government. Cal-Fed should encourage landowners to enhance voluntary habitat-conservation efforts.

Cal-Fed needs to move more quickly to develop surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs. Water conservation cannot make the same strides it has made in the past. We will work to become more efficient, but drought will take a serious toll on California's environment and economy unless new storage with additional yield comes on line soon.

Sincerely,

Dennis Meisner

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Madera County Supervisors
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Richard Monteith
Rep. George Radanovich Assemblyman George House



Stacy & Lisa Gore
P.O. Box 1126 ~ Durham, CA 95938
Phone 530-520-5442 ~ Fax 530-894-7562

August 16, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a farmer in Butte County and my family has been in farming for five generations that I can trace. I write to you today to express my concern over the just released Cal-Fed environmental report. My concern centers not only around the loss of land, but loss of life.

I have worked diligently to provide my family with the same way of life that I was fortunate enough to have experienced. I am educated, I am industrious and I enjoy my life, not livelihood, LIFE. I take my task as a steward of the environment seriously and continuously. No one knows better than a farmer the economic benefit of harmony between their farm and the environment.

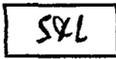
That said, I take particular exception with the basic premise that loss of farm land will be "irreversible and irretrievable" or that said loss will be "unavoidable". Why, is it unavoidable? Sir, you and the juggernaut bureaucracy that you are the head of, are the very people that can avoid this catastrophe.

Hundreds, if not thousands, of farmers have spoken out against just this sort of result. Our illustrations and examples of the dependence of society and the environment on a healthy farm economy have apparently fallen on deaf ears. I can't help but think that some of us in agriculture have figuratively been given a thirty day eviction notice on a way of life.

Mr. Ritchie, I implore you to hold public hearings and extend the comment period on the implementation of this plan. It has taken a long time to come this far it would be a shame to enact a plan that is substandard. Together, we must get it right the first time.

Sincerely,

Stacy J. Gore



Stacy & Lisa Gore
 P.O. Box 1126 - Durham, CA 95938
 Phone 530-520-5442 - Fax 530-894-7562

18698 Ave. 264
 Exeter, Calif 93221

August 16, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
 Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
 1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am writing to you today to express my concern that the comment period for the final EIR released July 21, 2000 for the Cal-Fed plan is far too short. I find it hard to understand how years of continuous input can be reviewed in just one month's time.

My husband and I are farmers in Butte County. At this point, we are looking forward to expanding our operation to include our children when they come of age. I also am the Parts Manager at a local agricultural equipment dealership. My customers, as well as my family's farms are the life blood of our community.

A reduction in land coupled with a deficient water supply not only spells disaster for farmers today, but could well be the hurdle that keeps our children from continuing the family farm for future generations. I not only see the worry at home, but also at the office. I see the worry in my customer's eyes.

My family and I work very hard to provide a sensible balance between the farm and the environment. We provide a healthy habitat for water fowl, upland game and a host of other species. My customers do the same. In fact there are many customers, who live in "town", that use the recreational / utility vehicles the dealership offers to enjoy and promote the very same habitat.

Mr. Ritchie, at this point, do not allow a sense of slow development to rush a diminished program through. California must take a look at the efforts put forth thus far, and then determine whether it is good for the state. I urge you, once again, to extend the comment period, if not re-open hearings on the Cal-Fed Bay-Delta plan.

Sincerely,

 Lisa R. Gore

SANTA CLARA COUNTY FARM BUREAU
 605 TENNANT AVENUE, SUITE B, MORGAN HILL, CALIFORNIA 95037
 (408) 776-1684, FAX (408) 776-7804

August 14, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
 Cal-Fed Bay -Delta Program
 1416 Ninth St, 1155
 Sacramento, Ca 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so we who must abide by it can understand how we fit the plan.

Agriculture is a part of the environment- the land, water, and air we all need to thrive. California farmland is a natural resource of global importance. Cal-Fed plans to acquire or control hundreds of thousands of acres of California farmland, mainly for fish and wildlife habitat. Cal-Fed has not done enough to study the environmental impact of this large-scale land conversion. And Cal-Fed has not looked seriously enough for ways to reduce farmland losses.

The government already owns half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife exists on privately owned land. We have done a better job of maintaining habitat that had the government. We take seriously our roles of stewards of the environment and wish to be partners with the government. Cal-Fed should encourage landowners to enhance voluntary habitat-conservation efforts.

Cal-Fed needs to move more quickly to develop surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs. Water conservation cannot make the same strides it has made in the past. We will work to become more efficient, but drought will take a serious toll on California's environment and economy unless new storage with additional yield comes on line soon.

August 9th, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
 Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
 1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
 Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I have serious concerns about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment on our farms and ranches. California agriculture is second to none in dollar value and importance to local economies. Cal-Fed should give every consideration to the significance that agriculture has on our food supply as well as the jobs created on and off the farm. Cal-Fed should find ways to avoid taking farmland out of production. Habitat conservation should be voluntary and balanced on all accounts.

Our farming operation includes stone fruit, table grapes, and kiwis. I assure you that we are interested in being good partners in preserving habitat as well as being good farmers and neighbors. We believe that voluntary measures are the best way to encourage compliance and cooperation between environmental concerns and the our desire to decide what to grow and how to grow it. Let's work together.

To maintain wildlife-friendly farms, farmers need reliable and affordable water. There is a reason that 75% of wildlife exists on privately owned land. We are good stewards of this land and consistent water supplies are a part of this formula. California farms cannot afford to lose water deliveries and neither can the habitat that thrives on our land. I believe that additional water storage is the best solution to many of our issues on this topic. Farmers must continue to be able to grow the crops that are so vital to California's growing population and economy.

Please hold more public hearings to allow for more input from the people who's lives are going to be affected by the Cal-Fed projects, the electorate of this state. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have been fully educated on the ramifications and have had the opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

Kerry Whitson

Farmers recognize and support the need to use water more efficiently. In fact, our farms have increased tonnage of agriculture of agriculture production by two-thirds since 1967, while using less water. But conservation has environmental consequences of its own. Reducing water use can affect the ecology of the farm, for example by allowing salts to build up in soil. Agricultural water conservation may also reduce the flow of water into underground aquifers or other water bodies. Cal-Fed should study these impacts before imposing water-efficiency requirements

Sincerely,

Jeannette Dickens
 President

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| cc. | Senator Dianne Feinstein | Governor Gray Davis | County Supervisors |
| | Senator Barbara Boxer | State Sen. Bruce McPherson | Don Gage |
| | Rep. Zoe Lofgren | State Sen. John Vasconcellos | James Beall |
| | | Assembly Member Peter Frusetta | Peter McHugh |
| | | | Joe Simitian |
| | | | Blanca Alcarado |

August 14, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a Madera County farmer, I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request you give us more time to review and comment on your document. It is much too large to digest and much too complex to understand. I also request you hold hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

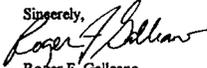
Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers.

Water for farms is used to grow plants. Those plants give off oxygen and help clean the air. Farming provides wildlife habitat while producing food. I continue to pay taxes on that land and survive on the income. This farmland has been in my family for generations. It is sustainable. I am not destroying the environment; I am helping to preserve it.

Do we really want to lose thousands of acres of farmland in California and lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants? Right now, the government owns about half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private land. Why do you think that is?

I have an answer. The animals like what we are doing. Our land and water is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land properly.

Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,

Roger F. Galleano
Water Committee Chair
Madera County Farm Bureau

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Madera County Supervisors
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Richard Monteith Senator Jim Costa
Rep. George Radanovich Assemblyman George House Assemblyman Dean Florez



COSYNS FARMS
15310 ROAD 19 • MADERA, CA 93637 • (209) 674-6283

Mrs. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a Madera County farmer, I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request you give us more time to review and comment on your document. It is much too large to digest and much too complex to understand. I also request you hold hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

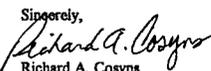
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Do we really want to lose thousands of acres of farmland in California and lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants? Right now, the government owns about half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private land. Why do you think that is?

I have an answer. The animals like what we are doing. Our land and water is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land properly.

Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Cosyns

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Madera County Supervisors
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Richard Monteith
Rep. George Radanovich Assemblyman George House

TREES, VINES, ROW CROPS, NEW DEVELOPMENT, FARM MANAGEMENT



ANDREW FARMS INC

4844 Rd 19
Madera CA 93637
August 14, 2000 (209) 674-8643
Fax (209) 673-6753
Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I ask two things, and then shall comment on the document. The requests are:

1. Extend the period to look through the document and provide comments on the final EIS/EIR released July 21. As a farmer I can't adequately review the thousands of pages in the document in the time allowed.

2. Hold public hearings to explain what you will do and the effects on us. Many changes were made to the report, which the public needs to have an opportunity to understand and discuss. I fear that even after we review the document there will be a lot that we won't understand. Even though you may not believe you are obligated to tell us how the plan will affect us, it's the right thing to do.

Comments: I believe that in trying to protect the environment, the Cal-Fed plan actually will harm it instead. Taking thousands of acres of land out of production will change the face of California agriculture dramatically. It will have a huge impact on the environment, not to mention local economies. When the land in private ownership stops providing food, a tax base and wildlife habitat, what happens to that land?

The farm environment where wildlife has gathered will be forever changed. Those crops won't be grown. Many species now occupy the acres of farmland Cal-Fed propose to take out of production. They are there because of the habitat provided by farmers and ranchers. History shows that the government has not done a good job of protecting and repopulating these species. Cooperative arrangements with landowners have worked better.

The Cal-Fed plan is flawed. I am disappointed that Cal-Fed and its agencies have turned a deaf ear to the more than 1,000 representatives of agriculture who attended your 16 hearings last year. Of the 800 people who spoke, most were farmers and ranchers and their families and neighbors. These people are stewards of the environment, managing land and water that produces food, wildlife and oxygen.

Sincerely,

Chester Andrew

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Madera County Supervisors
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Richard Monteith
Rep. George Radanovich Assemblyman George House

2706 W. Ashlan, Space 1
Fresno, CA 93705

August 15, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Although I am not a farmer it is obvious to me that Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

It is also totally unrealistic to think that any normal human can read the 6,500-page report and make comments within a 30-day period. This comment period needs to be extended and Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final.

Sincerely,

Art Dove

cc: Governor Gray Davis Rep. George Radanovich
Senator Dianne Feinstein Senator Chuck Poochigian
Senator Barbara Boxer Assemblyman Mike Briggs

Denis & Terri Proseri

22307 Ave 13
Madera, CA 93637

Ph. (559) 673-3921
Fax (559) 673-5271

August 14, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a Madera County farmer. We are concerned about the future. I ask that you:

1. Give us more time to review and comment on the final Cal-Fed environmental report released July 21. I work [more than 60 hours] a week on my operation and there is not enough time to review the plan.
2. Please hold public hearings to explain this plan to us. The report is long, complicated and technical.

I am concerned about this document, as I understand it so far. I have lots of wildlife and habitat on my operation. I know that other farmers do, too. If Cal-Fed acquires several hundred thousand acres of land as planned, it will be detrimental to habitat.

I do not believe that Cal-Fed adequately studied the effects of such a large-scale land conversion. I do not believe Cal-Fed tried hard enough to minimize farmland losses.

Sincerely,



Joe Galleano
Madera County Farm Bureau Director

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Madera County Supervisors
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Richard Monteith Senator Jim Costa
Rep. George Radanovich Assemblyman George House Assemblyman Dean Florez

August 14, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a Madera County farmer. We are concerned about the future. I ask that you:

1. Give us more time to review and comment on the final Cal-Fed environmental report released July 21. I work [more than 60 hours] a week on my operation and there is not enough time to review the plan.
2. Please hold public hearings to explain this plan to us. The report is long, complicated and technical.

I am concerned about this document, as I understand it so far. I have lots of wildlife and habitat on my operation. I know that other farmers do, too. If Cal-Fed acquires several hundred thousand acres of land as planned, it will be detrimental to habitat.

I do not believe that Cal-Fed adequately studied the effects of such a large-scale land conversion. I do not believe Cal-Fed tried hard enough to minimize farmland losses.

Sincerely,



Denis Proseri

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Madera County Supervisors
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Richard Monteith
Rep. George Radanovich Assemblyman George House

August 14, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

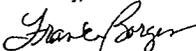
Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way, the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

But farmers can't provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,



Frank Borges
Madera County Farm Bureau Director

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Madera County Supervisors
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Richard Monteith Senator Jim Costa
Rep. George Radanovich Assemblyman George House Assemblyman Dean Florez

August 14, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I ask two things, and then shall comment on the document. The requests are:

1. Extend the period to look through the document and provide comments on the final EIS/EIR released July 21. As a farmer I can't adequately review the thousands of pages in the document in the time allowed.
2. Hold public hearings to explain what you will do and the effects on us. Many changes were made to the report, which the public needs to have an opportunity to understand and discuss. I fear that even after we review the document there will be a lot that we won't understand. Even though you may not believe you are obligated to tell us how the plan will affect us, it's the right thing to do.

Comments: I believe that in trying to protect the environment, the Cal-Fed plan actually will harm it instead. Taking thousands of acres of land out of production will change the face of California agriculture dramatically. It will have a huge impact on the environment, not to mention local economies. When the land in private ownership stops providing food, a tax base and wildlife habitat, what happens to that land?

The farm environment where wildlife has gathered will be forever changed. Those crops won't be grown. Many species now occupy the acres of farmland Cal-Fed proposes to take out of production. They are there because of the habitat provided by farmers and ranchers. History shows that the government has not done a good job of protecting and repopulating these species. Cooperative arrangements with landowners have worked better.

The Cal-Fed plan is flawed. I am disappointed that Cal-Fed and its agencies have turned a deaf ear to the more than 1,000 representatives of agriculture who attended your 16 hearings last year. Of the 800 people who spoke, most were farmers and ranchers and their families and neighbors. These people are stewards of the environment, managing land and water that produces food, wildlife and oxygen.

Sincerely,



Robert Cadenazzi
Madera County Farm Bureau Director

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Madera County Supervisors
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Richard Monteith Senator Jim Costa
Rep. George Radanovich Assemblyman George House Assemblyman Dean Florez

August 14, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

Cal-Fed should conduct habitat-restoration work on existing government-owned land before it begins acquiring more land.

The government already owns half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife exists on privately owned land. We have done a better job of maintaining habitat than has the government. We take seriously our roles of stewards of the environment and wish to be partners with the government. Cal-Fed should encourage landowners to enhance voluntary habitat-conservation efforts.

Cal-Fed needs to move more quickly to develop surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs. Water conservation cannot make the same strides it has made in the past. We will work to become more efficient, but drought will take a serious toll on California's environment and economy unless new storage with additional yield comes on line soon.

Sincerely,

H. Clay Daulton
Madera County Farm Bureau Director

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Madera County Supervisors
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Richard Monteith Senator Jim Costa
Rep. George Radanovich Assemblyman George House Assemblyman Dean Florez

August 14, 2000
Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca 95814

Brad Scott
18051 Gilman Sprr. Rd
Moreno Ca. 92555

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

It is extremely important that Cal-Fed recognizes the valuable contributions that agricultural farmland has to the economy, and as an environmental resource to the state of California. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres of farmland out of production. Myself and many others feel that Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the economical, and environmental impact of this land conversion. This plan needs to look at ways to reduce the negative loss of farmland to our state and its farmers.

Cal-Fed needs to work with farmers to implement a plan for voluntary habitat, conservation so that they may continue to feed a growing population. This can only be obtained through an affordable and adequate water supply. New storage of water must be included in this plan in order to accomplish these goals.

I think that Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain what they have planned. This should also include opportunity for public comment on this plan, which affects so many people. Cal-Fed should not proceed with this plan until all concerns have been addressed.

Sincerely,

Brad Scott

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Ray Haynes
Rep. Mary Bono Assembly Member Brett Granlund

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CALFED Bay/Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

August 14, 2000

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a Placer County resident. My family has been ranching here for 5 generations and have been actively involved with Placer County Farm Bureau for most of that time.

I am concerned as to how the final draft will affect our ranching operation. It seems like the whole process would be very negative towards agriculture in many ways. One thing for sure without any new surface water storage, within a few short years there will be no water for agriculture with the rapid rate of growth we have here in Placer County.

Mr. Ritchie, I urge you to lengthen the comment period on the EIS/EIR final draft. I also urge you to hold public hearings on the plan so individual landowners such as myself can see how they fit into the plan.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Wiswell, Jr.

Cc: Governor Davis
John Doolittle
Dianne Feinstein
Tim Leslie
Barbara Boxer
Rico Oller



August 9, 2000

P.O. Box
Westley, Ca 95387

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

I farm 550 acres of row crops along the San Joaquin River. We provide for wildlife in our farming operation. Cal-Fed should conduct habitat-restoration work on existing government-owned land before it begins acquiring more land.

The government already owns half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife exists on privately owned land. We have done a better job of maintaining habitat than has the government. We take seriously our roles of stewards of the environment and wish to be partners with the government. Cal-Fed should encourage landowners to enhance voluntary habitat-conservation efforts.

Cal-Fed needs to move more quickly to develop surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs. Water conservation cannot make the same strides it has made in the past. We will work to become more efficient, but drought will take a serious toll on California's environment and economy unless new storage with additional yield comes on line soon.

Sincerely,

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Dick Monteith Rep. Gary Condit
Assembly Member Dennis Cardoza
Stanislaus County Supervisors

COPY

August 7, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

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Sincerely,
George Ambrose
George Ambrose
2283 Woolner Ave.
Fairfield, CA 94533

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Senator Mike Thompson
Congressman Doug Ose Assemblywomen Helen Thomson

August 8, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a Solano County grape grower I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request you give us more time to review and comment on your document. It is much too large to digest and much too complex to understand. I also request you hold hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers.

Water for farms is used to grow plants. Those plants give off oxygen and help clean the air. Farming provides wildlife habitat while producing food. I continue to pay taxes on that land and survive on the income. This farmland has been in my family for generations. It is sustainable. I am not destroying the environment; I am helping to preserve it.

Do we really want to lose thousands of acres of farmland in California and lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants? Right now, the government owns about half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private land. Why do you think that is?

I have an answer. The animals like what we are doing. Our land and water is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land properly.

Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,
Linda Tenbrink
Linda Tenbrink
4185 Chadbourne Rd.
Suisun, CA 94585

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Senator Mike Thompson
Congressman Doug Ose Assemblywomen Helen Thomson

August 7, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a farmer in Solano County. I ask two things, and then shall comment on the document. The requests are:

1. Extend the period to look through the document and provide comments on the final EIS/EIR released July 21. As a farmer I can't adequately review the thousands of pages in the document in the time allowed.

2. Hold public hearings to explain what you will do and the effects on us. Many changes were made to the report, which the public needs to have an opportunity to understand and discuss. I fear that even after we review the document there will be a lot that we won't understand. Even though you may not believe you are obligated to tell us how the plan will affect us, it's the right thing to do.

Comments: I believe that in trying to protect the environment, the Cal-Fed plan actually will harm it instead. Taking thousands of acres of land out of production will change the face of California agriculture dramatically. It will have a huge impact on the environment, not to mention local economies. When the land in private ownership stops providing food, a tax base and wildlife habitat, what happens to that land?

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The Cal-Fed plan is flawed. I am disappointed that Cal-Fed and its agencies have turned a deaf ear to the more than 1,000 representatives of agriculture who attended your 16 hearings last year. Of the 800 people who spoke, most were farmers and ranchers and their families and neighbors. These people are stewards of the environment, managing land and water that produces food, wildlife and oxygen.

Sincerely,
Eric Warnken
Eric Warnken
6715 Binghampton Rd.
Dixon, CA 95620

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Senator Mike Thompson
Congressman Doug Ose Assemblywomen Helen Thomson

wildlife habitat impact

3788 Paloma Road
Valley Springs, CA 95252

August 8, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a rancher in Calaveras County and I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

Cal-Fed needs to move more quickly to develop surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs. Water conservation cannot make the same strides it has made in the past. We will work to become more efficient, but drought will take a serious toll on California's environment and economy unless new storage with additional yield comes on line soon.

Sincerely,
Jack Kuhl
Jack Kuhl

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Senator Tim Leslie
Representative John Doolittle Assemblyman Rico Oller

August 8, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way, the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

But farmers can't provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,


Bobbie Moriel
9275 McNeill Lane
Winters, CA 95694

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Senator Mike Thompson
Congressman Doug Ose Assemblywomen Helen Thomson

3353 Highway 4,
Murphys, CA 95247

August 8, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a wine grape grower in Calaveras County. I ask two things, and then shall comment on the document. The requests are:

1. Extend the period to look through the document and provide comments on the final EIS/EIR released July 21. As a farmer I can't adequately review the thousands of pages in the document in the time allowed.
2. Hold public hearings to explain what you will do and the effects on us. Many changes were made to the report, which the public needs to have an opportunity to understand and discuss. I fear that even after we review the document there will be a lot that we won't understand. Even though you may not believe you are obligated to tell us how the plan will affect us, it's the right thing to do.

Comments: I believe that in trying to protect the environment, the Cal-Fed plan actually will harm it instead. Taking thousands of acres of land out of production will change the face of California agriculture dramatically. It will have a huge impact on the environment, not to mention local economies. When the land in private ownership stops providing food, a tax base and wildlife habitat, what happens to that land?

The farm environment where wildlife has gathered will be forever changed. Those crops won't be grown. Many species now occupy the acres of farmland Cal-Fed proposes to take out of production. They are there because of the habitat provided by farmers and ranchers. History shows that the government has not done a good job of protecting and repopulating these species. Cooperative arrangements with landowners have worked better.

The Cal-Fed plan is flawed. I am disappointed that Cal-Fed and its agencies have turned a deaf ear to the more than 1,000 representatives of agriculture who attended your 16 hearings last year. Of the 800 people who spoke, most were farmers and ranchers and their families and neighbors. These people are stewards of the environment, managing land and water that produces food, wildlife and oxygen.

Sincerely,


Stuart Mast

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Senator Tim Leslie
Rep. John Doolittle Assemblyman Rico Oller

4101 Highway 26
Valley Springs, CA 95252

August 8, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a Calaveras County Rancher. My family has been on this land for many years and we are concerned about the future. I ask that you:

1. Give us more time to review and comment on the final Cal-Fed environmental report released July 21. I work [more than 60 hours] a week on my operation and there is not enough time to review the plan.
2. Please hold public hearings to explain this plan to us. The report is long, complicated and technical.

I am concerned about this document, as I understand it so far. I have lots of wildlife and habitat on my operation. I know that other farmers do, too. If Cal-Fed acquires several hundred thousand acres of land as planned, it will be detrimental to habitat.

I do not believe that Cal-Fed adequately studied the effects of such a large-scale land conversion. I do not believe Cal-Fed tried hard enough to minimize farmland losses.

Sincerely,


Eloise Fischer

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Tim Leslie
Rep. John Doolittle Assemblyman Rico Oller

August 8, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

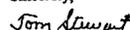
I am concerned about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment on farms and ranches. Agriculture is an important part of California's environment. Cal-Fed plans to convert nearly a quarter of a million acres of farmland to habitat and other uses. It should study the environmental impact of that land conversion. Cal-Fed must seek ways to avoid taking farmland out of production.

I know many farmers who enhance the wildlife value of their farms. We are stewards of the land and we want to be partners in environmental restoration. But we oppose requirements that tell us what to grow and how to grow it. Cal-Fed must work with us in a cooperative spirit.

To maintain productive and wildlife-friendly farms, farmers need reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must move aggressively to develop new water storage that provides adequate yield. Without more storage, California won't have enough water for the environment in dry years. That means water will be taken away from farms, especially during droughts. Without water, farmland loses its value as habitat and as a vital food resource for California's growing population.

Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,


Tom Stewart
2374 Shilow Rd.
Suisun, CA 94585

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Mike Thompson
Congressman Doug Ose Assemblywomen Helen Thomson

P. O. Box 567
Angels Camp, CA 95222-0567

August 8, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

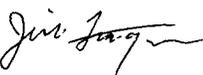
Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way, the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

But farmers can't provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

Jim Fraguero



cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Tim Leslie
Rep. John Doolittle Assembly Member Rico Oller

P.O. Box 733
Mountain Ranch, CA 95246

August 8, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way, the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

But farmers can't provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Fischer

cc: Governor Gray Davis Rep. John Doolittle
Senator Dianne Feinstein Senator Rico Oller
Senator Barbara Boxer Assemblyman Rico Oller

August 7, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

In my role of financing farmers, ranchers and related businesses, I am concerned about how the Cal-Fed program will affect the environment on those farms and ranches.

Cal-Fed is proposing to convert nearly 250,000 acres from productive farmland into habitat and other uses. Sufficient time should be utilized to study the effect on the environment as well as the economic impact that removal of farmland from production will have on the citizens of this county. Those lands will no longer produce food, fiber, nor provide a source of revenue to the county government.

I am concerned that this document is overly complex and lengthy, creating a major obstacle to those attempting to plow through and understand it as well as respond to the contents.

More time is necessary for the various concerned parties to understand the implications of the document.

Farmers recognize and support the need to use water more efficiently. In fact, farming in general has increased production while actually reducing the amount of water used by modernizing irrigation practices and delivery systems. Smaller amounts of water applied to the land can have adverse consequences as well. Salt intrusion is one of the many aspects of using less water on the land. Farmers can run wildlife-friendly, productive farms only if they have adequate, reliable affordable water. Without water, farmland loses its value both as habitat and as a vital food resource for California's exploding population.

Because of all the impacts on the environment of rural California, and because the signing in June of the "framework agreement", and because the Cal-Fed plan appears to have changed, we need more time to evaluate the environmental report. Public hearings would help Cal-Fed explain how its plan has changed and how it will affect Californians. Hearings would also give people time to express support or concerns about the various changes from the original plan. Cal Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review and comment on the plan.

Please hold more hearings allowing sufficient time to study the 6,500- page document!

Sincerely,



Robert E. Musick
Concerned Citizen
San Joaquin County



Siskiyou County Farm Bureau

August 4, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

The Siskiyou County Farm Bureau would like to express its concern regarding the proposed Cal-Fed program. We are particularly concerned about adequate "Area of Origin" protection for the water needs of our local people, businesses, fish and wildlife. Adequate instream flow is needed to support hydrological functions, gravel regime for endangered fish and to maintain the carrying of pollutants.

We would oppose any fee for use of water in California. Our water use rights date back to the 1850s, are private property and secured in priority of use by long-standing adjudications. We would also oppose any statewide system to control the diversion of groundwater resources in the State of California. Siskiyou County has a groundwater ordinance in place to limit the export of groundwater from our watersheds to that which is surplus only. Our groundwater is a private riparian property shared correlatively by the overlying landowners to be used on overlying land. It is not a public property.

We are concerned about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment on farms and ranches. Agriculture is an important part of California's environment. Cal-Fed plans to convert nearly a quarter of a million acres of farmland to habitat and other uses. It should study the environmental impact of that land conversion. Cal-Fed must seek ways to avoid taking farmland out of production.

To maintain productive and wildlife-friendly farms, farmers need reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must move aggressively to develop new water storage that provides adequate yield. Without more storage, California won't have enough water for the environment in dry years. That means water will be taken away from farms, especially during droughts. Without water, farmland loses its value as habitat and as a vital food resource for California's growing population.

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AUG 09 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

Marcia H. Armstrong
Executive Director

cc: Governor Gray Davis, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer,
Representative Wally Herger, State Sen. Maurice Johannessen, Assemblyman
Dick Dickerson, Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

August 6, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CALFED Bay/Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a Placer County cattle rancher and a director on the Placer County Farm Bureau. I am concerned about your final CalFed EIS/EIR released July 21, 2000. I am greatly concerned about the loss of agricultural land and also what it could do to the wildlife and their habitat. I request that the comment period on your final CalFed EIS/EIR be lengthened. Also, please hold public hearings to explain what this plan will mean to us.

Sincerely,

Don Derobertis,
Derobertis Ranch

cc: Governor Gray Davis
Barbara Boxer
John Doolittle
California Farm Bureau
Dianne Feinstein
Rico Oller
Tim Leslie

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AUG 09 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

July 7, 2000

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

I am a Rancher in Placer County. I am the 4th generation rancher on this land.

I have concerns over the 6500 page Cal-Fed document. As it stands it is an assault on the proposal. I now have many forms of wildlife on my ranch such as deer, bears, mountain lions, ducks, geese, turkeys, quail, coyotes, squirrels and others. All ranches have a considerable amount of wildlife habitat.

Would you please lengthen the comment period and hold public hearings to explain this plan to us.

Thank you
Don C. Oat

Don C. Oat
17115 Derobertis Rd
Auburn, California

cc Gray Davis
John Doolittle
Dianne Feinstein
Tim Leslie
Barbara Boxer
Rico Oller
Gary Sack

NEVADA COUNTY FARM BUREAU
P.O. Box 43 Chicago Park, CA 95712 : 530-346-8146 (phone & fax)

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AUG 09 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 07, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA. 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Agriculture is a vital part of California's environment and if a quarter of a million acres is taken out of production it will be detrimental to the state. There must be a study on the environmental impact of that land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

We are stewards of our land and we would be willing to work on a voluntary habitat conservation plan. We don't want to be told what to grow and when to grow it. There must be co-operation all the way around.

There is no way farmers and ranchers can provide habitat and feed people without a reliable and affordable water. The plan must develop water storage. New water storage will help guarantee water for the environment for the dry/drought years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how it plans has changed and how it is going to affect people. This plan should not be finalized until citizens have adequate opportunity to review and comment on it.

Sincerely,

Nevada County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

cc: Senator Diane Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep Wally Herger
Governor Gray Davis
State Sen. Tim Leslie
Assemblyman Sam Annetad
Nevada County Board of Supervisors

AUG 09 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

AUG 03 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

DOHERTY BROS.
GENERAL FARMING
P.O. BOX 413, DUNNIGAN, CA 95937

OFFICE: (916) 476-3609
FAX: (916) 476-3619

August 6, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CALFED Bay/Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CALFED Bay/Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca 95814

August 1, 2000

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a Placer County cattle rancher. My family has been on this land for generations. We are concerned about its future. I am also on the Board of Directors for the Placer County Farm Bureau. I am writing to ask that you:

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Michael Doherty, I farm rice, almonds, wine grapes, alfalfa and four other crops in Yolo, Colusa, and Sutter Counties. I farm these crops in a partnership with my two younger brothers and my father. We are fifth generation Californian farmers, we have strong ties to the land, and in many ways consider ourselves protectors of it.

1. Lengthen the comment period on your final CalFed EIS/EIR released July 21. I work more than 60 hours a week and there is not enough time to adequately review the plan.
2. Please hold public hearings to explain this plan to us. The 6,500 page report is complicated and technical.

Mr. Ritchie, I am concerned about this document, as I understand it so far. I have a lot of wildlife and habitat on my property. I know that other ranchers do too. If CalFed acquires several hundred thousand acres of land as planned, it will be detrimental to the habitat. I do not believe that CalFed adequately studied the effects of such a large-scale land conversion nor tried hard enough to minimize farmland losses.

I am writing to ask you to prolong the period in which to look over and comment on the CalFed EIS/EIR that was released on July 21, 2000. I was unable to get my hands on the report for several days after you released it. It is difficult for me to adequately review the document in the short period of time given. I work 65-75 hrs per week, so in the evenings after a full days work I read the CalFed EIS/EIR. I would simply like more time to comment on the report.

Sincerely,


Jim Bachman,
Bachman Ranch

It is my strong belief that more surface water is needed for this generation and the ones to come. Without surface water we will overuse our limited ground water (which by the way isn't all high quality) and future generations of farmers and conservationists will be left without.

cc: Governor Gray Davis Dianne Feinstein
 Barbara Boxer Rico Oller
 John Doolittle Tim Leslie
 California Farm Bureau

Our farm is teeming with wild life: wild pigs, deer, pheasant, ducks, geese, hawks, eagles, wild turkeys, foxes, just to name a few. I hesitate to think what it would be like without water.

I'm also of the opinion that before the government purchases more ground, it should better manage the land it already owns. We are private landowners who do a better job of managing our wildlife habitat than does the government who have all the "experts".



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Affiliated with the
CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION
and the
AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

TELEPHONE (925) 672-5115
FAX (925) 672-8382
5554 CLAYTON ROAD
CONCORD, CALIFORNIA 94521

August 8, 2000

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

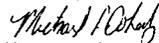
Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Lastly, our economy not only of our local rural area, but statewide included, will suffer mightily if more ground is taken out of production (whether by conservation or lack of water). I do not think CalFed tried hard enough to minimize farmland losses, let's try and do something about it.

I am concerned about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment on farms and ranches. Agriculture is an important part of California's environment. Cal-Fed plans to convert nearly a quarter of a million acres of farmland to habitat and other uses. It should study the environmental impact of that land conversion. Cal-Fed must seek ways to avoid taking farmland out of production.

Sincerely


Michael F. Doherty

I know many farmers who enhance the wildlife value of their farms. We are stewards of the land and we want to be partners in environmental restoration. But we oppose requirements that tell us what to grow and how to grow it. Cal-Fed must work with us in a cooperative spirit.

Cc Governor Davis Dianne Feinstein Barbara Boxer
 Doug Ose

To maintain productive and wildlife-friendly farms, farmers need reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must move aggressively to develop new water storage that provides adequate yield. Without more storage, California won't have enough water for the environment in dry years. That means water will be taken away from farms, especially during droughts. Without water, farmland loses its value as habitat and as a vital food resource for California's growing population.

Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,



Jackie Stewart, President
Contra Costa County
Farm Bureau

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Contra Costa County Supervisors
 Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Richard Rainey
 Rep. George Miller & Ellen Taucher Assembly Member Lynne Leach & Tom Tortakson

MYERS SEED

August 7, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Manager
CALFED Bay/Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

My family has been farming in Colusa County for over 40 years. We are concerned about our land and its future. We are requesting that you consider the following.

Lengthen the comment period on your final CalFed EIS/EIR released July 21. We work more than 70 hours on our ranch per week during this time of year and this is not enough time to adequately review the plan.

Hold public meetings to explain this plan to us. The 6,500 page report is complicated.

Mr. Ritchie, the CalFed plan is flawed. I am disappointed that CalFed and its operating agencies have ignored the more than 1,000 representatives of agriculture who attended your 16 CalFed hearings last year. Of the 800 people who spoke, most were from agriculture. These people are the backbone of the economy, the number one industry for producing wildlife, oxygen and food.

I am concerned about this plan, as I understand it so far. I have wildlife and habitat on my land. If CalFed acquires several hundred thousand acres of land as planned, it will be detrimental to habitat. I do not believe that CalFed adequately studied the effects of such a large-scale land conversion.

Sincerely,

MYERS SEED

David H. Myers
David H. Myers, Partner

Cc: Governor Davis; Dianne Feinstein; Barbara Boxer; Gary Sack; Maurice Johannessen; Doug Ose; Colusa County Board of Supervisors

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AUG 0 9 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

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AUG 0 8 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Gilbert Ramos
6766 Harrington Ave.
Arbutucke, CA 95912
August 7, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Director
CALFED Bay, Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I farm 600 acres of almonds in southern Colusa County. My family has farmed this land for three generations and I am trying to keep it going for a fourth generation.

The irrigation water we use from Lake Shasta, via the Tehama Colusa Canal, saved our farm from dust bowl conditions in the 1970's. The ground water in this area had dropped so deep we were starting to pump salt water and was very limited. We know how precious water is for everybody in this state. Without water we can not stay in business.

In order to meet its environmental goals, Cal-fed must move forward to develop new water storage. Farms do not need additional water. But, we recognize the need to make sure there is enough available to meet environmental goals, especially in dry years. The only way to guarantee adequate water supplies during droughts is to capture more water during wet years. Otherwise, water will be taken away from farms in order to sustain environmental and urban uses.

I and other farmers need more time to look through the document and provide comments on the final Cal-fed EIS-EIR released July 21. I would also urge Cal-fed to hold hearings to explain to the public what you will do and its effect on us. Many changes were made to the report, which the public needs to have an opportunity to understand and discuss at hearings.

Many farmers will gladly enhance the wildlife value of their farms, and many already do. We take seriously our role as stewards of the environment and wish to act as partners in restoration activities. But farmers will resist mandates or regulations that tell them what to grow and how to grow it. Cal-Fed must work with farmers in a cooperative spirit.

Sincerely,
Gilbert Ramos
Gilbert Ramos

Cc: Governor Davis, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer, Congressman Doug Ose, State Senator Maurice Johannessen, and Colusa County Board of Supervisors.

RECEIVED

AUG 0 8 2000

8/7/00 CALFED Bay-Delta Program

JAMES W. LOPES

44960 Lopes Court
Fremont, CA 94538
Cellular (209) 573-1650
Residence (510) 228-0604

*Mr. Steve Ritchie
Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Ste. 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814*

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a Stanislaus and San Joaquin County walnut farmer, I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request you give us more time to review and comment on your document. Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As the state's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed surface storage, not from farmers.

To lose thousands of acres of farm land in California is to lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants. Right now, the government owns about half of the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private land. Our land and water is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land properly.

*In conclusion, I ask two things:
① Extend the period to review and comment on the final EIS/EIR released July 21st.
② Hold public hearings.*
Thank you for your attention to these matters.

*cc: Sen. Dianne Feinstein
Sen. Barbara Boxer
Rep. Pete Stark
Sen. Lita Ripstein
Assemblyman Steve Dutra
Rep. Al and Davis*

*Sincerely,
James W. Lopes*

Louis E. GINOCCHIO
3401 Walnut Avenue
Concord, CA 94519-2435
August 7, 2000

RECEIVED

AUG 0 8 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am writing to urge you to delay the closing of the comment period for the EIS/EIR referenced above. It is an extremely complex and voluminous document that contains many substantive changes from its predecessor versions. Additional public hearings to allow input by those most directly affected by its provisions should be scheduled. It is my understanding that a significant number of adjustments have been made and without adequate time to discern the changes, and their impact on those who must eventually abide by the same would be unfair.

As a rancher whose family has been in the business of farming and livestock production since the 1870's in Contra Costa County, I am well aware the consequences of not fully comprehending the scope of new governmental regulations as they come into place. We provide significant wildlife habitat on our over 7000 acres in this county and additional cover for wildfowl and upland game on our rice and irrigated pasture acreage in Yuba County.

It should be noteworthy that the Local, State and Federal governments, in various capacities, own in excess of 50% of the land in California, yet when it comes time to provide for additional enhancements for fish and wildlife the government looks to remove further acreage from agricultural production which is home to over 75% of the wildlife by the governments own estimates. It seems that private ownership has provided a better home for these critters than that which the various government entities provide. Far better, it would seem to me, to get into some sort of partnership with the private sector as has been suggested in earlier proposals, than to simply remove additional lands from agriculture.

Additional "off stream" storage facilities as also previously brought to the table, seem to have been ignored as well. To simply "redistribute" existing water supplies does little to solve the problems of adequate water resources for wildlife, environment enhancement, growing municipal demands as well as supplies sufficient to feed the hungry nation and the world. More efficient use of existing supplies, while an admirable goal, can not be expected to provide yields matching the successes of the past without also, seriously considering the expansion of storage of water in periods of plenty. It is no secret that California, without adequate water, would soon revert to a "desert" incapable of supplying the needs of people, agriculture or the environment.

Again, I strongly urge that you consider extension of the comment period and explore the real opportunities for expansion of storage while there is still time to do so. Many "real solutions" may yet surface, given the opportunity.

Sincerely,
Louis E. Ginochio
LOUIS E. GINOCCHIO

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. George Miller
Governor Gray Davis
Contra Costa Co. Bd. of Supervisors
Senator Richard Ralney
Yuba County Bd. of Supervisors
Assemblyman Tom Torlakson

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AUG 08 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program
Lincoln, Calif.
August, 8, 2000

Campbell

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AUG 07 2000

3828 Gladding Rd
Lincoln, CA 95648
August 4, 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CALFED Bay/Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CALFED Bay/Delta Program
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie

I was present at CALFED public hearings conducted in Yuba City and the Convention Center in Sacramento. Most of those who spoke up, including me, were Farmers or connected with Agriculture in some way. By far, the majority wanted to see much more surface storage of water than proposed. Also, they did not want the great loss of Ag. land which appears will take place when all things involved are finalized.

I would appreciate your help in extending the comment period on the final CALFED report. After all, the storage, distribution, and use of water in this State is so controversial that we must have adequate time to study such a huge Report and half way understand what is going on and how we will be affected!

Sincerely,

Allen Stonesifer
Allen Stonesifer
1700 Auburn Rd.
Lincoln, Ca. 95648

Cc Governor Davis
John Doolittle
Dianne Feinstein
Barbara Boxer
Tim Leslie
Rico Oller

We are writing in concern of the CalFed EIS/EIR that was released on July 21.

A 6500 page document of this scope and technical applications will require several months of perusal just to get through it, let alone digest and understand it. The review period should be extended to a minimum of 90 days and should include several public hearings to discuss the implications.

This proposal will affect California Agricultural in many adverse ways. As food for the entire nation comes from farms in the central valley of California, it will adversely affect the nation's food supply. Any proposal that does not include new water for agricultural, environmental and domestic use is badly flawed. If you take water away from one use, such as agriculture, you are harming everyone.

Farmers have always been good stewards of the land and environment, give them a chance to prove they will continue to be so. Our families have been farming in California for 140 years, let us keep being able to carry on the tradition.

Rather than buy up producing agricultural land the environmental mitigations should be carried out on existing federally owned land.

Sincerely,

Wayne Vineyard
Wayne Vineyard
Placer Country Farmers

Barbara Vineyard
Barbara Vineyard

cc: Gray Davis
John Doolittle
Diane Feinstein
Barbara Boxer
Tim Leslie
Rico Oller
Gary Sack

Date

Ms. Jane Dolan
Chair, Butte County Supervisors
Administrative Center
25 County Center Drive
Oroville, CA 95965

Dear Ms. Dolan:

This responds to your May 16, 2000 letter restating a number of Butte County's concerns with the CALFED Program and requesting an extension of the 30-day period following the release of CALFED's Final Programmatic EIS/EIR (Final EIS/EIR).

We have reviewed thousands of comments on the June 1999 draft CALFED Programmatic EIS/EIR and have prepared responses that will be included in the Final EIS/EIR. We intend to have the Final EIS/EIR delivered to all who commented on the draft EIS/EIR within 2-3 days of its release to agencies and the public. As a minimum, in compliance with CEQA, Butte County-- as a public agency commentor-- will get the Final EIS/EIR at least 10 days before it is certified.

The following are brief excerpts, dealing with Butte County's comments, from some of the responses in the Final EIS/EIR:

The ERP requires all project applicants to coordinate with local government and all projects will be thoroughly evaluated by qualified experts; The ERP proposal to allow the Sacramento River to meander was taken from the citizen and landowner process developed in the Sacramento River Conservation Area Handbook (S.B. 1086); The "hard points" policy objective of S.B. 1086 is integrated into the ERP. Future redesign and reconstruction of bridges should include bypasses and other flood relief measures; CALFED is not proposing to change any regulations, water rights or standards. CALFED will operate within the existing regulatory and statutory water rights framework. Individual CALFED agencies will continue to exercise their respective authorities; and CALFED acknowledges the role that agricultural land plays as a substitute for natural habitat. Our "wildlife friendly" incentive program intends to increase those benefits.

CEQA does not provide for comments on the Final EIS/EIR. NEPA provides a 30-day period, after notice of the availability of the Final EIS/EIR is published in the Federal Register, before a decision on the proposed action can be made or recorded. This 30-day period is not a second public or agency review and comment period.

Comments submitted during this 30-day period will be submitted to CALFED decisionmakers for their consideration, but neither NEPA nor CEQA require lead agencies to respond formally on a Final EIS/EIR.

Sincerely,

SR



TEHAMA
COUNTY
FARM
BUREAU

August 16, 2000

17970 Ewingwood Rd
Coltonwood, CA 96022

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

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AUG 18 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR
Dear Mr. Ritchie,

We are long time ranchers in northern Tehama County in livestock production. We are concerned about how the Cal Fed plan will affect the environment on farms and ranches. Farmland is an important natural resource that feeds people and provides wildlife habitat at the same time. The Cal Fed plan would remove nearly a quarter of a million acres from production, Cal Fed calls that "unavoidable," but it can and should be avoided. Cal Fed must look harder for ways to reduce farmland losses. Only if farmers and ranchers have reliable and affordable water, they will be able to run production, wildlife friendly farms.

Please consider this point in your final long-term plan. Please listen to the people who provide the jobs for California's number one industry Agriculture. Thank you for this consideration.

Sincerely yours
Harry & Jackie Baker

Bus: (530) 527-7882
Fax: (530) 527-6028

045 Antelope Blvd., Suite 17
Red Bluff, California 96080

C - 0 2 9 7 1 4

C-029714

Comments on Final CALFED Plan
8627 Sullivan Way
Durham, CA 95938
Aug. 20, 2000

Quinton + Melba Bailey
8627 Sullivan Way
Durham, CA 95938
Aug. 20, 2000

Dear Mr. Richie,

We are farmers and we need to hear of what you plan to do to save our ground water. The water belongs to all the people in the valley, not to be sold. Most people in Butte Co. have wells for farming and domestic use.

You have said, "We will do what the people want." We have told you over and over. "We want reservoirs!" You have studied! I believe you mention you had been studying for 20 years. That is long enough for any study. You keep mentioning "Environmentalists and endangered species that no one knows about. I want to know, who is more important, species or human?"

We are losing more and more farm land to the environment which gives for wild life and taxes. The government does not pay tax so is losing? We the people. The government has millions of acres of public land.

You think you pay high for groceries now, but you will see groceries go out of sight. Other countries that do not restrict as we do will flood our markets, and we will pay dearly. They do not have the health protection that our country demands for us. We do not want any more studies. We want to know what you can do. You can plan to build water storage as we have said over and over. Cost or no cost.

Advocate your meeting on TV. Everyone watches TV, where as they do not read. Be sure to tell your plans for the meetings.

Sincerely,
Quinton + Melba Bailey

We are concerned that our letter may have come through without its signature, so we are sending it again.

Melba Bailey

Ms. Alona Meinhart
3699 Chico St.
Chico, Calif. 95928

Ms. Steve Ristakis, Acting Executive Director
Cal - Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, Calif. 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/B.R.

Dear Mr. Ristakis,

We have farmed almonds in Butte County for 45 years. Water is an essential part of our farming. We are asking you to address our concerns regarding the Cal/Fed final document.

To follow final report was released on July 21, 2000, such a final response day by August 21, 2000. This allows interested people only 31 days to thoroughly review a massive document, get answers to legal phrases and respond to Cal/Fed in Sacramento.

This document was released in the busiest time of the year. It's harvest time! Does Cal/Fed realize that we work 7 days a week from daylight till dark during harvest. Was the release of this document - at this time - an oversight on your part? At least extend the response period and give us a chance to review the document and respond in a meaningful way.

If the budget for Cal/Fed is set at \$1.6 billion dollars for the next 7 years. This provides 1.2 billion

dollars per year for the next 7 years. Can the taxpayers expect an annual report on this expenditure? Does any of this money go to environmental groups to keep rip land along the Sacramento River? The funding is referred to as "Framework for Action" and funding to aggressively move forward solutions. This amount of money (\$1.6 billion) could provide alot of surface storage so we could provide water for irrigation and recreation, but also control flooding in the winter and drought in the summer. Sustained water flow would keep the river healthy.

Thank you for addressing our concerns and we look forward to discussing these concerns with you at a town meeting in the near future.

Sincerely,
Alona Meinhart

Mariposa County Farm Bureau
5131 Highway 140, P. O. Box 1297
Mariposa, Ca 95338
(209) 966-3848 Fax: (209) 966-7411

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AUG 18 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Lyle Turpin, President

August 17, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am concerned about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment on farms and ranches in Mariposa County. I ask two things, and then shall comment on the document. The requests are:

1. **Extend the period to look through the document and provide comments on the final RIS/EIR released July 21.** This would give me time to review the many pages of the document in the time allowed.
2. **Hold public hearings to explain what you will do and the effects on our County.** Many changes were made to the report, which the public needs to have the opportunity to understand and discuss, even after we review the document there will be a lot we won't understand. You need to tell us how the plan will affect us, its the right thing to do.

Comments: I believe in trying to protect the environment, the Cal-Fed plan actually will harm it instead. Taking thousands of acres of land out of production will change the face of California agriculture dramatically. It will have a huge impact on the environment, not to mention local economies. When the land in private ownership stops providing food, a tax base and wildlife habitat, what happens to that land?

The farm environment where wildlife has gathered will be forever changed. Those crops won't be grown. Many species now occupy the acres of farm land the Cal-Fed proposes to take out of production. They are there because of the habitat provided by farmers and ranchers. History shows that the government has not done a good job of protecting and

repopulating these species. Cooperative arrangements with landowners have worked better.

The Cal-Fed plan is flawed. I am disappointed that Cal-Fed and its agencies have turned a deaf ear to the more than 1,000 representatives of agriculture who attended your 16 hearings last year. Of the 800 people who spoke, most were farmers and ranchers and their families and neighbors. These people are stewards of the environment, managing land and water that produces food, wildlife and oxygen.

Sincerely,

Lyle Turpin

Lyle Turpin, President
Mariposa County Farm Bureau

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors
Senator Richard Monteith
Assemblyman George House
Representative George Radanovich

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AUG 18 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

*Aug 14-00
C. E. Swift
5219 Indian Gulch Rd.
Cathay Valley, Ca 95306*



A. M. FARMS
A. Marchini & Sons
9010 W. Howard Road
Stockton, CA 95206
Phone (209) 462-1185

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AUG 18 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Dear Mr Ritchie

I'm a rancher in Mariposa County and I would like you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

Cal-Fed needs to move more quickly to develop surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs

*Sincerely
C.E. Swift*

August 15, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

When I heard of the CalFed I thought that it might have a chance to work. The idea of one organization with all the agencies that have authority over water in this state getting together to solve the water problems that are facing us all. Unfortunately I have changed my mind, after trying to read the CalFed plan and trying to understand it, I have come to the conclusion that the plans only purpose is to provide water for the people in the southern part of this state.

The plan wants to increase the fish and wild life habit by taking out of production thousands of acres of farmable land. Land that uses water for farming. If the land goes to habitat for fish and wildlife it won't need the water and it will be excess water that will be claimed by the expanding population. It will never be used to improve the water quality in the bay-delta. Let CalFed start with the land that the government already owns to conduct habitat-restoration work. Taking valuable farmland out of production is not the answer.

CalFed needs to aggressively develop new water storage plans and develop plans to capture the excess water in the wet years. The plan as it stands does little to do this. It is not politically correct to build dams.

I believe that the plan as it stands will create more problems that it will solve. More time is needed to have public comments and hearings with the people that will be directly impacted by this plan. Use your power and influence to see that this plan works, extend the time for the final programmatic EIR/EIS.

Sincerely,

Paul Marchini

Paul J. Marchini
A.M. Farms

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Richard Pombo
Governor Gray Davis
State Senator Patrick Johnston
Assemblyman Mike Machado
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

C - 0 2 9 7 1 6

C-029716



Shasta County Farm Bureau

3605 Bechelli Lane • Redding, CA 96002 • (530) 223-2358 • E-mail: info@shastafarmbureau.com

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 16, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

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AUG 18 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a member of Shasta County Farm Bureau, which represents over 1600 members, I must comment on the recent release of the final EIS/EIR regarding the Cal-Fed program. Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource within the state. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of valuable production. Enough thought has not been given to the environmental impact of this land conversion, and needs to be done before drastically changing California's already sustainable agriculture environment.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation to ensure that the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time. In addition, Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield, as this is the backbone to ensuring the future of both. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

Public hearings need to be held to explain the plans before they become final, as well as telling us how this newly changed plan will affect people. The plan should not be finalized until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and make decisions based upon the facts.

Sincerely,

Patrick Fields
Shasta County Farm Bureau Director

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis County Supervisor Hawes
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Maurice Johannessen County Supervisor Wilson
Rep. Wally Herger Assembly Member Dick Dickerson County Supervisor Clarke
County Supervisor Fust County Supervisor Kehoe

August 15, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a Madera County farmer. We are concerned about the future. I ask that you:

1. Give us more time to review and comment on the final Cal-Fed environmental report released July 21. I work [more than 60 hours] a week on my operation and there is not enough time to review the plan.
2. Please hold public hearings to explain this plan to us. The report is long, complicated and technical.

I am concerned about this document, as I understand it so far. I have lots of wildlife and habitat on my operation. I know that other farmers do, too. If Cal-Fed acquires several hundred thousand acres of land as planned, it will be detrimental to habitat.

I do not believe that Cal-Fed adequately studied the effects of such a large-scale land conversion. I do not believe Cal-Fed tried hard enough to minimize farmland losses.

Sincerely,

Carl Johnson
Madera County Farm Bureau Director

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Madera County Supervisors
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Richard Montcith Senator Jim Costa
Rep. George Radanovich Assemblyman George House Assemblyman Dean Florez

August 15, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a Madera County farmer, I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request you give us more time to review and comment on your document. It is much too large to digest and much too complex to understand. I also request you hold hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers.

Water for farms is used to grow plants. Those plants give off oxygen and help clean the air. Farming provides wildlife habitat while producing food. I continue to pay taxes on that land and survive on the income. This farmland has been in my family for generations. It is sustainable. I am not destroying the environment; I am helping to preserve it.

Do we really want to lose thousands of acres of farmland in California and lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants? Right now, the government owns about half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private land. Why do you think that is?

I have an answer. The animals like what we are doing. Our land and water is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land properly.

Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,

Ralph Pistorosi
Madera County Farm Bureau

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Madera County Supervisors
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Richard Montcith Senator Jim Costa
Rep. George Radanovich Assemblyman George House Assemblyman Dean Florez

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program



Shasta County Farm Bureau

3605 Bechelli Lane • Redding, CA 96002 • (530) 223-2358 • E-mail: info@shastafarmbureau.com

August 10, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a member of Shasta County Farm Bureau with over 1600 members, I feel I must comment on your recent release of the final EIS/EIR regarding the Cal-Fed program. I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

The government already owns half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife exists on privately owned land. We have done a better job of maintaining habitat than has the government. We take seriously our roles of stewards of the environment and wish to be partners with the government. Cal-Fed should encourage landowners to enhance voluntary habitat-conservation efforts.

Cal-Fed needs to move more quickly to develop surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs. Water conservation cannot make the same strides it has made in the past. We will work to become more efficient, but drought will take a serious toll on California's environment and economy unless new storage with additional yield comes on line soon.

Sincerely,

Bob Nash
Shasta County Farm Bureau Vice President

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein County Supervisor Kehoe
Senator Barbara Boxer County Supervisor Fust
Rep. Herger County Supervisor Hawes
Governor Gray Davis County Supervisor Wilson
State Senator Maurice Johannessen County Supervisor Clarke
Assembly Member Dick Dickerson

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AUG 18 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Pitigliano Farms

11586 Avenue 120
Post Office Box 9
Tipton, California 93272



Office: (559) 752-4319
Mobile: (559) 269-6797
FAX: (559) 752-3230

Nancy Pitigliano
P.O. Box 9
Tipton, CA 93272

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 15, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

My husband and I farm 5000 acres of orchard and field crops in Tulare County. We provide for wildlife in our farming operation. Cal-Fed should conduct habitat-restoration work on existing government owned land before it begins acquiring more land.

The government already owns half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife exists on privately owned land. We have done a better job of maintaining habitat than has the government. We take seriously our roles of stewards of the environment and wish to be partners with the government. Cal-Fed should encourage landowners to enhance voluntary habitat-conservation efforts.

Cal-Fed needs to move more quickly to develop surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs. Water conservation cannot make the same strides it has made in the past. We will work to become more efficient, but drought will take a serious toll on California's environment and economy unless new storage with additional yield comes on line soon.

Sincerely,

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Tulare County Supervisors
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Jim Costa
Rep. Calvin Dooley Assembly Member Sarah Reyes

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
August 15, 2000
Page Two

8. Water-efficiency requirements can affect the ecology of farmland by allowing salts to build up and reduce flow of water into underground aquifers. Cal-Fed should study these impacts before imposing water-efficiency requirements.
9. Cal-Fed should provide a better description to landowners what it means to live in the "Solution Area".
10. Public hearings should be held before Cal-Fed finalizes its plan.

Sincerely,

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Ken Calvert
Governor Gray Davis
State Senator James L. Brulte
Assembly Member Rod Pacheco
County Supervisor John Tavaglione
County Supervisor Tom Mullen
County Supervisor Robert Buster

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AUG 18 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

LEMONTREE RANCH
P.O. BOX 127
RIVERSIDE, CA 92502
909/328-9349

August 15, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Listed below are my concerns after reviewing the "Cal-Fed Final Programmatic EIR/EIS":

1. Cal-Fed has not done enough to study the environmental impact of this large-scale conversion.
2. Cal-Fed offers no plan to replace this lost land.
3. Cal-Fed should conduct its habitat-restoration work on the existing government-owned land.
4. Farmers would like to be partners in restoration activities and Cal-Fed should work with farmers in a cooperative spirit.
5. Farmers should be encouraged to maintain and enhance voluntary habitat-conservation efforts.
6. Adequate, reliable and affordable water is vital to farmers.
7. Cal-Fed must move aggressively to develop new water storage to provide adequate yield in dry years.

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AUG 18 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 15, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am concerned about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment on farms and ranches. Agriculture is an important part of California's environment. Cal-Fed plans to convert nearly a quarter of a million acres of farmland to habitat and other uses. It should study the environmental impact of that land conversion. Cal-Fed must seek ways to avoid taking farmland out of production.

I know many farmers who enhance the wildlife value of their farms. We are stewards of the land and we want to be partners in environmental restoration. But we oppose requirements that tell us what to grow and how to grow it. Cal-Fed must work with us in a cooperative spirit.

To maintain productive and wildlife-friendly farms, farmers need reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must move aggressively to develop new water storage that provides adequate yield. Without more storage, California won't have enough water for the environment in dry years. That means water will be taken away from farms, especially during droughts. Without water, farmland loses its value as habitat and as a vital food resource for California's growing population.

Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

Enzo Petrucci
Madera County Farm Bureau Director

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Madera County Supervisors
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Richard Monteith Senator Jim Costa
Rep. George Radanovich Assemblyman George House Assemblyman Dean Florez

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AUG 18 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mariposa County Farm Bureau

5131 Highway 140, P. O. Box 1297

Mariposa, Ca 95338

(209) 966-3948 Fax: (209) 966-7411

August 15, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way, the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

But farmers can't provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

Dino A. Petrucci, President
Madera County Farm Bureau

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Madera County Supervisors
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Richard Monteith Senator Jim Costa
Rep. George Radanovich Assemblyman George House Assemblyman Dean Florez

August 17, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am concerned about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment on farms and ranches in Mariposa County. I ask two things, and then shall comment on the document. The requests are:

1. Extend the period to look through the document and provide comments on the final RIS/EIR released July 21. This would give me time to review the many pages of the document in the time allowed.
2. Hold public hearings to explain what you will do and the effects on our County. Many changes were made to the report, which the public needs to have the opportunity to understand and discuss, even after we review the document there will be a lot we won't understand. You need to tell us how the plan will affect us, its the right thing to do.

Comments: I believe in trying to protect the environment, the Cal-Fed plan actually will harm it instead. Taking thousands of acres of land out of production will change the face of California agriculture dramatically. It will have a huge impact on the environment, not to mention local economies. When the land in private ownership stops providing food, a tax base and wildlife habitat, what happens to that land?

The farm environment where wildlife has gathered will be forever changed. Those crops won't be grown. Many species now occupy the acres of farm land the Cal-Fed proposes to take out of production. They are there because of the habitat provided by farmers and ranchers. History shows that the government has not done a good job of protecting and

Mounts Wineyard

5545 W. Dry Creek Rd.
Healdsburg, CA 95448-9103

Phone 433-4102
Fax 433-4102

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AUG 18 2000

August 15, 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I farm 140 acres in Sonoma County, consisting of 85 acres of winegrapes and the remainder dedicated to wildlife. I wish to make two requests and then will make some comments. The requests are:

1. To extend the period to study the document and provide comments on the final EIS/EIR released July 21. I can not possibly review and understand over 6000 pages in under 30 days, as the document was not available on the 21 st.
2. Hold additional public hearings to adequately explain the many impacts this document will have on the agricultural community. There seem to be many changes made to this document, and I feel that to understand these changes to the document, another round of hearings is needed so the public can be allowed the opportunity discuss this report, which will have profound impacts on the farming community.

Comments: The government (State and Federal) already owns half of the land in California, yet most of the wildlife exists on private lands. In our area Fish and Game buys land for species protection, but soon finds that these plant and animal species only flourish on privately held land that is grazed. Farmers have done a better job of maintaining habitat than our so called protectors of the environment (CDPG & FWS). We take seriously our roles as stewards of the land and environment and would like to work cooperatively with the government to enhance habitat, as we have done with Resource Conservation Districts. I myself have dedicated forty acres to habitat for deer, turkeys, geese, ducks as well as many smaller birds and mammals. The taking of hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland out of production will have a huge impact on farming communities up and down the great central valley. These impacts will be felt through out the west, as many dairies depend on forage crops grown on the lands. Finally, without increased storage California will not have adequate water to meet the needs of agriculture, the environment and an ever increasing urban population. This new storage must yield real water that can be used to meet our future needs in low rainfall years.

Sincerely,

Richard Mounts

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
Senator Barbara Boxer State Senator Chesbro Assembly Member Strom-Martin
Representative Mike Thompson Assembly Members: Pat Wiggins , Kerry Mazzoni

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14 August 2000 CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 15, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

Cal-Fed should conduct habitat-restoration work on existing government-owned land before it begins acquiring more land.

The government already owns half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife exists on privately owned land. We have done a better job of maintaining habitat than has the government. We take seriously our roles of stewards of the environment and wish to be partners with the government. Cal-Fed should encourage landowners to enhance voluntary habitat-conservation efforts.

Cal-Fed needs to move more quickly to develop surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs. Water conservation cannot make the same strides it has made in the past. We will work to become more efficient, but drought will take a serious toll on California's environment and economy unless new storage with additional yield comes on line soon.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Van Allen
Madera County Farm Bureau Director

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Madera County Supervisors
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Richard Monteith Senator Jim Costa
Rep. George Radanovich Assemblyman George House Assemblyman Dean Florez

Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CALFED Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE CALFED FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

This letter is being written to you in regard to the CALFED Framework for Action.

My family has been farming in the area of California since the 1840's.

In our world there is X amount of water and X amount of open land with an ever increasing population.

California farmland is a valuable environmental resource.

There needs to be a little something for all involved.

When I went to school, FOOD, WATER AND SHELTER were the necessities of survival.

I think CALFED should hold more public hearings to explain the plans before they become final.

All citizens should ^{have} be the opportunity to review and comment upon the details.

Sincerely,

Linda Geis

8720 Cypress Rd.
Dos Palos, CA 93620
(209) 392-3431

MITCHELL TURKEY FARM
9651 Grant Line Road
Elk Grove, CA 95624

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AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a contract turkey grower in south Sacramento County. I ask two things, and then shall comment on the document. The request are:

1. Extend the period to look through the document and provide comments on the final EIS/EIR released July 21. As a farmer I can't adequately review the thousands of pages in the document in the time allowed.
2. Hold public hearings to explain what you will do and the effects on us. Many changes were made to the report, which the public needs to have an opportunity to understand and discuss. I fear that even after we review the document there will be a lot that we won't understand. Even though you may not believe you are obligated to tell us how the plan will affect us, it's the right thing to do.

Comments: I believe that in trying to protect the environment, the Cal-Fed plan actually will harm it instead. Taking thousands of acres of land out of production will change the face of California agriculture dramatically. It will have a huge impact on the environment, not to mention local economies. When the land in private ownership stops providing food, a tax base and wildlife habitat, what happens to the land?

The farm environment where wildlife has gathered will be forever changed. Those cops won't be grown. Many species now occupy the acres of farmland Cal-Fed proposes to take out of production. They are there because of the habitat provided by farmers and ranchers. History shows that the government has not done a good job of protecting and repopulating these species. Cooperative arrangements with landowners have worked better.

The Cal-Fed plan is flawed. I am disappointed that Cal-Fed and its agencies have turned a deaf ear to the more than 1,000 representatives of agriculture who attended your 16 hearings last year. Of the 800 people who spoke, most were farmers and ranchers and their families and neighbors. These people are stewards of the environment, managing land and water that produces food, wildlife and oxygen.

Sincerely,

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Patrick Johnson
Rep. Doug One Assembly Member Anthony Pescetti

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AUG 23 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr. Steve Ritchie
Cal Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St Suite 1155
Sacramento Ca 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie,
Cal Fed must recognize farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of land conversion.
Cal Fed should extend the time period so farmers can look through the document. We work as much as 60 to 70 hours a week so we need more time. Also you should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. Then the land can help feed our population. Farmers and Dairyman cant feed the world without reliable and affordable water.

C - 0 2 9 7 2 0

C-029720

One way to insure that is develop water storage. New storage will help the environment in dry years, so we farmers and dairymen won't have it taken away from us.

The plan is long complicated and technical. Please hold public hearings to explain this plan to us.

Thank you
Chuck Drapler
JCG Dairy Co

Pedersen Farms

08/17/00

Mr Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr Ritchie

I farm 2500 acres of Row crops in the central San Joaquin Valley. I would like to make two requests as well as comment on the program

1. Hold public hearings to explain what you will do and the effects of these actions on us. Many changes were made to the report, which the public needs to have an opportunity to understand and discuss. I fear that even after we review the document there will be a lot that we won't understand. Even though you may not believe you are obligated to tell us how the plan will effect us, it's the right thing to do.

2. Extend the period to look through the document and provide comments on the final EIS/EIR released July 21. As a farmer I can't adequately review the thousands of pages in the document in the time allowed.

Comments: I believe that in trying to protect the environment, the Cal-Fed plan actually will harm it instead. Taking thousands of acres of land out of production will change the face of California agriculture. It will have a huge impact on the environment, not to mention local economies. When the land in private ownership stops providing food, a tax base and wildlife habitat, what happens to that land?

The farm environment where wildlife has gathered will be forever changed. Those crops won't be grown. Many species now occupy the acre's of farmland Cal-Fed proposes to take out of production. They are there because of habitat provided by farmers and ranchers.

In closing I hope Cal-Fed will use good judgment and respond to the concerns put forth.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,
Craig Pedersen
Craig Pedersen

Pedersen Farms
15478 Houston Ave
Lodi, CA 93245

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AUG 23 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

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AUG 23 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program 8/17/00

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

I believe Cal-Fed should conduct habitat restoration work on existing government owned land before it begins acquiring more land.

The government already owns half the land in California, yet 75% of the wildlife exists on privately owned land. We have done a better job of maintaining habitat than the government has.

Farming and ranching is vital to our country and our state. Cal-fed needs to move more quickly to develop surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs. While conservation cannot make the same strides it has made in the past. We will want to become more efficient, but drought will take a serious toll on California's environment and economy unless new storage with

additional yield comes on line soon.

Sincerely,
George W. Wenzel



MACY-L HOLSTEINS

Manuel Maciel & Son

5968 16th Avenue
Hanford, California 93230
Office: (209) 583-6229 / Res.: (209) 584-6344



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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Phillip Hansen Ranch
Harp & Hansen
Hansen Equipment
Double Farms
MH Farms
Phiko Farms
Big Rock Farms
Tulare Lake Farming Co.

HANSEN RANCHES

James B. Hansen
Jess V. Hansen
Phillip W. Hansen
Mark V. Hansen
Erik J. Hansen
Nis P. Hansen

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AUG 23 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 15, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie
Cal - Fed Bay - Delta Program
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca 95814

August 15, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a third generation dairyman and farmer in Kings County and am concerned about the Cal Fed report that came out last month. It is my understanding that this plan is being finalized and I do not fully understand what will be happening. I would strongly encourage that it is in everyone's best interest that the people affected know exactly how this document will be implemented. Please hold public hearings in many locations so that details can be explained and in turn understood.

This letter is in regards to the Final Programmatic EIS / EIR for the Cal-Fed Program.

Please extend the time period to review the report recently released on July 21st and also hold public hearings on the plan. With such an important issue, more public review and input should be considered.

Sincerely,

Manuel Maciel

Mike Maciel

We also believe the answer to California's water problems can be solved by additional storage, and that Cal Fed needs to work more quickly to develop additional surface storage. California has plenty of water, it just needs to have adequate storage and stop letting the Environmentalists block every project.

We also believe that landowners want to protect wildlife, and will do a great job of it if provided with incentives, instead of disincentives. The answer is not for the State to acquire more land, but to develop voluntary programs and incentives for private landowners.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

Jim Hansen

Jim, Jess, Phil, Mark, Nis, and Erik Hansen

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Jim Costa
Rep. Cal Dooley Assemblyman Dean Florez

Post Office Box 398 - Corcoran, California 93212 - Ph. (559) 992-3111 - FAX (559) 992-2107
Location: Corcoran Airport - 7124 W. Whiskey Avenue

Joni Deutch
PO Box 1289
Courtessville, CA 95311

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AUG 18 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

AUBURN VALLEY CATTLE COMPANY

Michael B. Watson
11400 Cramer Road
Auburn, Ca. 95602
530-823-2626

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AUG 18 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Aug 15 2000

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CALFED Bay/Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca 95814

August 15, 2000

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

I am a Placer County rancher. My family, my friends and my partners in the agricultural community are concerned about the future of our land and particularly our water resources. I am specifically interested in your Cal/Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. It is much too complex to understand and I would like to request that you consider holding hearings to explain the impact the Cal/Fed program will have on us. Who actually knows what the impact will be? We would like to speak to the people who feel that "unavoidable farmland losses" as part of the Cal/Fed program are an adequate replacement for food on the table.

Would it also be possible to explain why, due to the Cal/Fed program, we should "double up" on wildlife and natural plant habitat at the expense of providing an independent source of feeding our public? I am pro-wildlife, belong to a wildlife rescue group and actively participate in saving, protecting and promoting wildlife in our area. With the generous amount of land the government owns in California, it would seem that taking additional valuable farmland for the sole purpose of wildlife habitat could be considered a typical government snafu.

Mr. Ritchie, all we are asking is that if the document is as we understand it now, please listen to the thousands in the agricultural community and try to do the following:

- 1) lengthen the period for viewing and commenting on the final CalFed EIS/EIR released July 21.
- 2) hold public hearings to explain the program
- 3) don't rush into a plan that has such a huge impact on the future of agriculture in California

Sincerely,

Michael B. Watson

Michael B. Watson

cc: Gary Sack
Governor Davis
John Doolittle
Diane Feinstein
Tim Leslie
Barbara Boxer
Rico Oller

As a Placer County rancher, I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. It is not realistic to expect anyone to digest a 600 page document in such a limited amount of time.

In addition there should be public hearings on the plan so that we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

The solution areas for the Cal Fed plan include many of Placer's land areas. Cal Fed needs to provide a better and more detailed description of what that means. Does being in the solution area mean landowners will face additional regulations from Cal Fed? Does it mean they may be asked to give up land and water as part of the solution?

Sincerely,

Joni Deutch



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AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land properly for habitat.

Cal-fed has had almost a year to develop the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR and release it to the public. Yet Cal-Fed has given one month to respond to these plans and right in the middle of harvest! Is this by design? These issues are just too important and the ramifications too serious for us to rush through this process.

Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearing before you implement the plan. I would suggest a 2-3 month delay. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stan Lester

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Doug Ose
Yolo County Board of Supervisors

Governor Gray Davis
State Senator K. Maurice Johannessen
Assembly Member Richard Dickerson
Assembly Member Helen Thomson

August 16, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a farmer in Yolo and Solano County, I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request you give us more time to review and comment on your document. It is much too large to digest and much too complex to understand as well as it comes right when we are busy harvesting our crops. I also request you hold hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water for agriculture and the lack of progress on increasing water storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers.

Water for farms is used to grow plants for food and fiber. Those plants give off oxygen and help clean the air. Farming also provides wildlife habitat while producing food. I continue to pay taxes on that land, survive on the income as well as provide jobs for my employees. This farmland has been in my family for generations. It is sustainable. I am not destroying the environment. I am helping to preserve it.

Do we really want to lose thousands of acres of farmland in California and lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants? Right now the government owns about half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private land. Why do you think that is? I believe I have an answer. The animals like what we are doing. Our land and water is well managed and cared for. When the government

4317 Margaret Lane Winters, California 95694 • 530.795.2693 • Fax 530.795.3970 • www.lesterfarms.com

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AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Barnes to Ritchie page 2 of 2

Julian, CA
Aug 16, 2000

Mr Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Cal-Fed EIS-EIR Barnes to Ritchie page 1 of 2

Dear Sir:

I have been studying California's water problems since I was in College in the 50's. Long enough to know that there are no easy or simple solutions. I have not been able to review the entire Cal-Fed EIS-EIR in the short time allowed for comments and I urge you to extend the comment period. However, because of the short comment period I inclose the following remarks based on my review to date.

First it is obvious that the present statewide water system is inadequate for existing uses except in a few local areas.

Second, there is going to be a reduction in Colorado River water available to Calif., and many underground basins are being overdrafted.

Therefore the present system is not sustainable even before more water is allocated to fish, wetlands and other environmental uses.

Finally the urban and suburban areas are growing at rapid rates and will surely need more water.

Because agriculture uses a high percentage of the total water used beneficially in the State politically the easiest answer to the dilemma is to propose a reduction in irrigated areas.

My wife's and my families have been involved in Calif. agriculture for over a century. We are one of the few people in Calif. Agriculture that operate largely on non-irrigated land and I can tell you that we can continue only because of the irrigated areas we have.

It looks to me like, considering the increasing demand for water by wildlife (in the broadest sense) and cities and urban areas that the current proposed reduction in irrigated areas is only the first minor step in the long term reduction in irrigated agriculture implied by the EIS-EIR. Some of this reduction is inevitable. However, I believe that the implied continuing reductions, and the social, economic and environmental effects thereof are inadequately discussed in the EIS-EIR. These

environmental, economic and social effects and tradeoffs of drying up 150,000(or however many) acres are significant, and should be clearly stated. Especially the tradeoffs for increased urban-suburban use.

I also believe that additional off-stream storage should be developed as soon as possible, with locations urgently needed both north and south of the Delta. The effects of delaying these projects is inadequately discussed in the EIS-EIR.

Clearly the Delta can be improved greatly with less total water use by a partially or fully isolated structure. It looks to me that the present proposals do not adequately model the salt water intrusion that historically occurred annually during times of low water flow. This information is needed to evaluate the adequacy of the current proposal, and instream flow needs.

Underground storage of water in some already lowered basins may be practical, but only if the basins stop overdrafting. Either long term water supplies to replace that used by basins that significantly and regularly overdraft must be proposed or reduction in their water yield reflected in the EIS-EIR.

The few basins that are currently in near balance with the recharge rate should not be drained to postpone difficult decisions or to obfuscate the magnitude of the surface water shortfall.

South of Stockton (and perhaps further north) gray water use and water recycling must be instituted. Problems needing further information in the EIS-EIR are how to overcome the public's concern, and more importantly what to do with the accumulating salts. Increased ag water use efficiency also accelerates the accumulation of salts. The EIS-EIR does not adequately discuss water reuse and the disposal of solutes.

In summary I believe that the EIS-EIR fails to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the effects of the various Cal-Fed Bay Delta proposed actions, especially as they relate to agriculture.

These comments are based on only a cursory review. I mentioned at the beginning that the comment time period is too short to do a good job, and I urge you to extend it.

I would be happy to discuss these issues with you or your staff at any time.

Sincerely,

Franklin L. "Woody" Barnes Jr.
Manzanita Ranch, P.O. Box 1570, Julian, CA 92036 (760) 765 0516

C - 0 2 9 7 2 3

C-029723

Clyde L. Cartwright
Rosalie G. Cartwright
3986 Ord Ferry Rd.
Chico, CA 95928
August 21, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

We are almond farmers in the Chico-Dayton area and we have some very serious concerns about the final EIS/EIR.

1. There is not time for the stakeholders to review the document in the time allowed. Please extend the time to study and provide comments on the final EIS/EIR.
2. The public needs to attend public hearings to learn what the effects of the CALFED plan are. We in Butte County feel we are especially vulnerable to impacts which may be a result of CALFED policies. Hold public hearings in Butte Co. and other areas in the state as you did earlier to discuss the document. It may not be legally necessary, but it is the ethical thing to do.
3. Taking farmland out of production will be detrimental to the economies of our counties and affect the food supply of our state. Employment and the production of agriculture and agriculture related businesses will decrease. Welfare rolls will increase as well as our dependence on foreign food imports which do not have the standards the U.S. requires of food production. Improve habitat-restoration work on existing government-owned lands. Before new land is purchased, you must assess what can be on already owned lands. Help farmers provide, maintain, and enhance voluntary habitat-conservation efforts. With the billions of \$'s for habitat, there should be plenty to do this.
4. Farms need reliable water as does the environment. Reducing water to farms can have effects besides just having water to send somewhere else. Economic impacts of unemployment, decreased production, decreased tax base, decreased commerce and trade, and impacts to the terrestrial environment are more than probable. CALFED must develop new water storage aboveground off-stream reservoirs. The needs of environment and people both need to be considered. Capture the high flows during wet winters so that water can be furnished to both needs in times of necessity. Place the reservoirs where they will impact the environment and the people the least.
5. All of the impacts of conjunctive use in source areas must be considered, weighted and explained fully at public hearings.

CALFED must not finalize its plan until the public who must live under it and abide by it has adequate time to review and comment with understanding.

Sincerely,
Rosalie G. Cartwright
Clyde L. Cartwright

August 20, 2000

Steve Prentice
9266 River Road
Chico, CA 95928
(530) 345-1566

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dr. Mr. Ritchie,

I farm 230 acres of almonds, walnuts and vinesood in the Sacramento Valley

I would like to request that you extend the period of time to review and comment on the final EIS/EIR released July 21. As I write this, our harvest has already begun, there is no way I have the time to review a document of this size and scope in that amount of time.

I would also like to request that you hold public hearings explaining what you will do and how it will affect us. Many changes were made to the report, the public needs to have an opportunity to understand and discuss. You do have an obligation and responsibility to tell us how the plan will affect us.

I believe the Cal-Fed plan works under a false assumption that any changes man makes to the environment are harmful. Careful examination of the real facts shows that this isn't the case. History will show that the best solutions to protecting and repopulating wildlife come through cooperative agreements with landowners, not through government intervention.

Taking thousands of acres out of production will have a huge impact on local economies, through the loss of tax base, wildlife habitat and food production.

Please listen to the voice of agriculture that has tried to tell their view of potential impacts. They are people whose livelihood depends on the environment and they don't take environmental concerns lightly, there needs to be a reasonable approach.

Sincerely,
Steve Prentice
Steve Prentice, Walter Sprague Orberds

Ila Kesterson
9519 Perkins St.
Chico, CA 95928
August 21, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CALFED Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Being from a retired farm family I feel public hearings need to be held to explain your final Cal-Fed environmental report.

The report is so complicated, the public needs answers as to how landowners will be affected regarding loss of land and water.

Sincerely,

Ila Kesterson
Ila Kesterson



Shasta County Farm Bureau

3605 Bechelli Lane • Redding, CA 96002 • (530) 223-2358 • E-mail info@shastafarmbureau.com

August 10, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As one of over 1600 members of Shasta County Farm Bureau, I feel I must comment on your recently released EIS/EIR regarding the Cal-Fed proposal. I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the lengthy final environmental report released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

Cal-Fed should help conduct habitat-restoration work on existing government-owned land before it begins acquiring more land. The government already owns half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife exists on privately owned land. We, as farmers, have done a better job of maintaining habitat than has the government. We take seriously our roles of stewards of the environment and wish to be partners with the government. Cal-Fed should encourage landowners to enhance voluntary habitat-conservation efforts than set aside their own conservation methods, rather than taking matters into their own hands.

Efforts need to be more focused towards developing surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs of California. We are always working to become more efficient, but drought will take a serious toll on California's environment and economy unless new storage with additional yield comes on line soon.

Please take into consideration these points that I have addressed when making a decision that will ultimately affect not only California, but the nation as a whole. Take the time to address these issues before you drastically change our environment.

Sincerely,
Carol Buckman
Carol Buckman
Shasta County Farm Bureau Director

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein	Governor Gray Davis	County Supervisor Hawes
Senator Barbara Boxer	State Sen. Maurice Johannessen	County Supervisor Wilson
Rep. Wally Herger	Assembly Member Dick Dickerson	County Supervisor Clarke
	County Supervisor Kehoe	County Supervisor Fust

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AUG 22 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Tri-Counties Young Farmers and Ranchers

Name: John B. Pigott
Address: 1418 Bumpy Ln.
Anderson, CA 96007-

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Danny Walker
440 West K Street
Brawley, CA 92227

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AUG 22 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

RE: CAL-FED Final EIS/EIR

August 17, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

August 17, 2000

Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CALFED Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a member of the Tri-Counties Young Farmers and Ranchers, I feel it is necessary to respond to your recent release of the Cal-Fed final EIS/EIR report. I am concerned about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment and vitality on farms and ranches not only throughout the state, but also those located within Shasta, Tehama, and Lassen counties.

I am concerned about Cal-Fed's plan to idle 250,000 acres of farmland for habitat development and "other uses". Cal-Fed's plan ignores the fact that cultivated farmland provides wildlife habitat and that "other uses" very often damage it.

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. Your proposed plan will take out nearly 250,000 acres of production agriculture. There has not been enough thought put into the long-term effects of this drastic land conversion.

Here in the Imperial Valley we enjoy a very diverse population of birds whose habitat is the cultivated farmland and associated waterways. There is only one other location in the United States that has a larger, more diverse population of birds. This provides an example of the value of farmland in creating wildlife habitat.

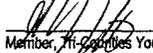
In addition, there needs to be an emphasis on surface water storage and point of origin labeling. Water stored needs to be readily available to the farmers and ranchers within the area that it originates in times of need. Raising the Shasta Dam is not going to alleviate the problem of accessible water in the central and southern valley, instead more high flows from wet winters need to be contained and stored in above ground reservoirs to insure that there is enough water in drought conditions.

Imperial Valley farmland will not be impacted by Cal-Fed's immediate plans, but I am very concerned about the precedent that idling farmland would set.

I think that Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. It is your responsibility to tell us how its plan has changed and how it will effect the people before making a final decision that could be irreversible and irremediable.

Idling 250,000 acres of farmland should free up at least 1 million acre feet of water. How much of this water will be used for new urban development that will most certainly damage wildlife habitat?

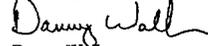
Sincerely,


Member, Tri-Counties Young Farmers and Ranchers

Cal-Fed should do further research into the value of farmland for wildlife habitat. No plan should be finalized until this has been done and the public has had ample opportunity to review and comment.

Additional Comments:

Sincerely:


Danny Walker

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis State Assembly Sam Anestad
Senator Barbara Boxer State Senator Maurice Johannessen State Assembly Dick Dickerson
Rep. Wally Harger State Senator Tim Leslie

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AUG 22 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Matthew D. Maring
400 Roxanne Drive
Patterson, CA 95363

August 17, 2000

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AUG 21 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CALFED Bay/delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suit 1155
Sacramento, Ca 95841

Dear MR. Ritchie:

I am a Placer County rancher. My family has been ranching on this land for four generations. We are concerned about its future. I ask that you:

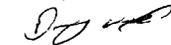
- 1. Lengthen the comment period on your final CALFED EIS/EIR released July 21. I work more than 60 hours a week and there is not enough time to adequately review the plan.
- 2. Please hold public hearings to explain this plan to us. The 6,500 page report is complicated and technical.

Mr. Ritchie, I am concerned about this document, as I understand it so far. I have lots of wildlife and habitat on my operation. I know that other farmers do too. If CALFED acquires several hundred thousand acres of land as planned, it will be detrimental to habitat. I do not believe that CALFED adequately studied the effects of such a large-scale land conversion.

I do not believe CALFED tried hard enough to minimize farmland loss.

Sincerely,

Danny Wirwell


cc: Governor Davis Dianne Feinstein Barbara Boxer

August 9, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way, the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

But farmers can't provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,


Matthew D. Maring

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Dick Monteith Rep. Gary Condit
Assembly Member Dennis Cardoza
Stanislaus County Supervisors

August 17, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

John Patrick Howard
Del Monte Fresh Produce
P.O. Box 577
Sageon, CA 95657

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AUG 21 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Robinson Farms
10835 Furlong Drive
Hanford, Ca. 93230

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AUG 23 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Aug. 14, 2000

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am an Agricultural engineer from the state of Florida. I visit very frequently for business your splendid state of California. I learned recently about Cal-Fed plan to convert 250,000 acres of farmed land into wildlife habitat.

I do believe in Resource Conservation and wildlife protection. I am concern, however, about the plan what are the socio-economical impact of your studies? What will be the impact on those farmers and food production in the area? A simple economical fact is that price goes higher as supply decrease. There are so many other variables in this equation.

Please allow the concerned citizens the opportunity to review the plan.

Sincerely,

John Patrick Howard

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis (Co. Supervisors)
Senator Barbara Boxer
U.S. Rep. B. Rangel
St. Sen. Jim Costa & Al Pacciarini
Sen. Thom Hironaka

RECEIVED

AUG 23 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

CALARCO, INC.

P.O. Box 727 • 2550 5th Avenue • Corcoran, California 93212-0727 • Phone (559) 992-3127 • Fax: (559) 992-5714

Warren Hutchings
Calarco, Inc.
P.O. Box 727
Corcoran, CA 93212

August 15, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

Cal-Fed must recognize the value of California farmland and its importance as an environmental resource. The Cal-Fed will take about 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the Environmental-Economic impact of this size of land conversion. The plan must seek ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Cal-Fed should work with the farmers on a voluntary basis. Some habitat is more suitable for wildlife!

Farmers in California must have reliable affordable water. New storage's must be considered.

Public hearings are a must to explain how the plan is to work. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

Warren Hutchings
General Manager

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Governor Gray Davis
Congressman Cal Dooley

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, Calif. 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. The time allotted under the current schedule is too short for thorough review by all parties.

I've followed the Cal-Fed process and make the following comments to you concerning the final environmental report;

1. California farmland is a valuable environmental resource. Efforts should be made to improve improve wildlife habitat and the Bay Delta ecosystem without removing from production hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland. Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way, the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.
2. In order to provide habitat and feed people, farmers need a reliable and affordable water supply. We're fooling ourselves to believe a system designed in the 50's and built in the 60's can provide this. New storage will help guarantee water for farms and the environment in dry years.
3. I am disappointed that Cal-Fed and its agencies have largely ignored the concerns of agriculture. Our industry is a big part of the skeleton of California business activity. We continue to supply a cheap source of food and fiber to the world. However the longterm health of our industry appears to be in jeopardy, unless changes are made to the Cal-Fed framework.

Sincerely,

Jeff G. Robinson
Gary G. Robinson

Cc: Senator Diane Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Congressmen Cal Dooley
State Senator Jim Costa
State Assembly Member Dean Flores

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AUG 18 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Jeff Merwin
39108 Z Line Road
Clarksburg, CA 95612

August 11, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a Yolo County farmer I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request you give us more time to review and comment on your document. It is much too large to digest and much too complex to understand. I also request you hold hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers.

Water for farms is used to grow plants. Those plants give off oxygen and help clean the air. Farming provides wildlife habitat while producing food. I continue to pay taxes on that land and survive on the income. This farmland has been in my family for generations. It is sustainable. I am not destroying the environment; I am helping to preserve it.

Do we really want to lose thousands of acres of farmland in California and lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants? Right now, the government owns about half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private land. Why do you think that is? I have an answer. The animals like what we are doing. Our land and water is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land property. Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,

Jeff Merwin

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Doug Ose
Yolo County Board of Supervisors

Governor Gray Davis
State Senator K. Maurice Johannessen
Assembly Member Richard Dickerson
Assembly Member Helen Thomson

Aug. 15, 2000

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program



SACRAMENTO COUNTY FARM BUREAU

8970 Elk Grove Boulevard · Elk Grove, California 95624-1946
(916) 685-6958 · Fax (916) 685-7125

August 16, 2000

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AUG 18 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released on July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan.

The Cal-Fed plan acknowledges it will have an "irreversible and irremediable" impact on almost a quarter of a million acres of Calif. farmland. Yet Cal-Fed offers no plan to replace the lost land, simply referring to farmland losses as "unavoidable". The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Sincerely,
Douglas M. Chappell
Douglas M. Chappell
5858 Colorado Rd.
Mariposa, Ca 95338

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Director
CAL-FED Bay/Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Even though it would affect water supplies for all Californians, the environment and land use throughout much of California, Cal-Fed seeks to finalize the Bay-Delta Plan without more public hearings. While not required to do so, Mr. Ritchie, more time should be allowed for public meetings and written comment. It is the right thing to do.

The Cal-Fed plan would remove from production nearly a quarter of a million acres of California farmland. The Cal-Fed plan calls this "unavoidable." But it can and should be avoided, and Cal-Fed should look for ways to reduce farmland losses. Farmland losses mean lost jobs, less taxes and negative impacts on local economies.

Agriculture is the number one industry in California and farmland is an important natural resource that feeds people and provides wildlife habitat.

Farmers can run productive, wildlife-friendly farms only if they have reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed should look to the future of all Californians and develop more water storage, with adequate yield for people, food production and wildlife. Additional stored water will help sustain people and the environment in dry years. We need more water storage. It's as simple as that. Otherwise, Cal-Fed will simply take the water away from farms, making the effect of droughts even more severe with less food and fiber production. Cal-Fed should work under its original premise to create a Bay-Delta water solution that is a "win-win" for everybody. Unfortunately Cal-Fed has turned its back on the agricultural segment of the equation.

Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. We need to know and understand the exact effects on agricultural land both for now and the future. Citizens should have adequate opportunity to review and understand the plan and to offer comments.

Sincerely,

Denis R. Lewis
Denis R. Lewis
President

Co: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Congressman Richard Pombo

Congressman Doug Ose
Assemblyman Anthony Pescetti
County Supervisor Don Nottoli

To Represent and Promote Agriculture in Sacramento County

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AUG 18 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

15 August 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Dir.
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 9th St Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I would request that you extend the time to adequately read and analyze the final EIR released July 21. I also feel that Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan so we may better understand its workings.

It is acknowledged that there may be "irreversible and irremediable" impacts on a quarter million acres of Calif. farmlands. Cal-Fed does not address these but merely notes that it is "unavoidable".

The plan needs to research the farmland loss.

Sincerely,
Walter K. Bond
Walter K. Bond
4155 Lippes Pine Rd.
Mariposa, CA 95338

Dee Run Ranch
Walter K. Bond

10715 McMahon Rd. Colusa, CA 95911

Phone (209) 878-3276

Re: Mr. Steve Ritchie, F.D.
Cal-Fed Delta Program
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

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AUG 18 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Sir

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and extend the time for comment on the final environmental report released July 21. Public hearings should be held on the plan, so we can see how we fit into the plan. Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a resource that must be considered when such a large piece of land is taken out of production.

Sincerely

Walter K. Bond

C - 0 2 9 7 2 7

C-029727

LYLE E TURPIN
3919 HWY 132
COURTNEYVILLE CA 95311

Aug 15, 00

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

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AUG 18 2000

Aug 15-2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director

RE FINAL PROGRAMMATIC EIS/EIS

DEAR MR. RITCHIE

AS A FARMER IN MARIPOSA COUNTY I AM WRITING TO ASK YOU TO EXTEND THE TIME TO READ AND COMMENT ON THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT RELEASED JULY 21. IT IS NOT REALISTIC TO EXPECT ANYONE TO DIGEST A 6,500 PAGE DOCUMENT IN SUCH LIMITED AMOUNT OF TIME

IN ADDITIONAL THERE SHOULD BE PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE PLAN SO THAT WE WHO MUST ABIDE BY IN CAN UNDERSTAND HOW WE FIT INTO THE PLAN.

JLE Turpin

Dear Mr. Ritchie

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed hold public hearings on the plan, so that we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

Cal-Fed must recognize Calif farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production resource. The Cal-Fed plan would Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of the land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Sincerely, Anne Bower

P.O. Box 1810
Mariposa, Cal
95338



El Dorado County Farm Bureau
2460 Headington Road • Placerville, CA 95667 • (530) 622-7773

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AUG 18 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 16, 2000
Page 2

Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

When the Cal-Fed organization was formed it was intended to provide a unique entity which allowed open collaboration on water issues affecting all stakeholders. Our local Farm Bureau has participated in hearings and in providing comments whenever opportunity existed to do so. However, expecting the members of the public to receive, review, and respond to a 6,500 page document in 30 days without any prior hearings, workshops, or briefings is unconscionable. This action tells the public that Cal-Fed no longer wants a collaborative approach to solve the problems we must all live with in the future management of California's water issues. If this is not the message Cal-Fed intended to send the public, then that must be rectified immediately.

Since all of these issues may have a significant socioeconomic impact to the citizens of this county, it is incumbent on us to request not only an extension to the comment period but for public hearings which allow for open discussions of this plan. We look forward to receiving notice as to the revised review period and when public hearings will be scheduled in or near El Dorado County to address concerns about the EIS.

Sincerely,

Valerie Zentner
Valerie Zentner
Executive Director

vz/hs

Copy: Governor Gray Davis, State of California
Senator Tim Leslie, California State Senate
Assemblyman Rico Oller, California State Assembly
Congressman John Doolittle, U.S. House of Representatives
Senator Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senate
Senator Barbara Boxer, U.S. Senate
Secretary William J. Lyons, California Dept. of Food and Agriculture
Secretary Dan Glickman, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
Supervisor Ray Nutting, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
California Farm Bureau Federation, Mary-Ann Warmerdam
Commissioner Tom Mahach, El Dorado County Planning Commission
Bill Snodgrass, Agricultural Commissioner

August 16, 2000

Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1418 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention: Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director

Subject: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

We hereby request a 180 day extension to the public review and comment period for the subject document. Although the EIS was officially released on July 21, 2000, many people are just now receiving their copies. We were alarmed to read that written comments were due in 30 days and that public hearings are not contemplated.

As you are no doubt aware, the federal government has inundated the public with significant plan documents requiring review and comment during the same period. The U.S.F.S. Roadless Initiative comment period ended on July 17. The U.S.F.&W.S. Draft Recovery Plan for the Red Legged Frog review period ends on August 10. The U.S.F.S. Sierra Nevada Framework comments are due on August 11. And your 6,500 page Cal-Fed document requires input by August 21. All of these proposals individually are formidable to wade through in a comprehensive way, and all of these programs have potential major impact to this county.

The El Dorado County Farm Bureau represents over 1,500 members. The Cal-Fed plan will have a significant impact on watershed management. El Dorado County boasts several major watersheds, water projects, and public utilities that will be impacted. In addition, we have agricultural, private, and public lands that may be impacted by management guidelines contained in the EIS. We believe that if we are to be impacted by new requirements, we should also be part of the process of developing them. As a minimum, we should at least be advised of what the changes are and how they will affect us. In order to be part of the collaborative process we need more time to adequately review this plan and to provide substantive comments to Cal-Fed for consideration.

Protecting the productive, economic and social viability of El Dorado County
agriculture and farmers

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C-029728

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AUG 18 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

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AUG 18 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Cathie Raggianti
Raggianti Ranch
P.O. Box 175
Cathie's Valley, California 95306
August 15, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Exec. Dir.
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan so that we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

Cal Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Sincerely,
Cathie Raggianti

RE: FINAL PROGRAMMATIC EIS/EIR

Mr. Ritchie

I AM A RANCHER IN MARIPOSA COUNTY AND I AM WRITING TO ASK YOU TO EXTEND THE TIME TO READ AND COMMENT ON THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT RELEASED JULY 21. I ALSO BELIEVE CAL-FED SHOULD HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE PLAN, SO WE WHO MUST ABIDE BY IT CAN UNDERSTAND HOW WE FIT INTO THE PLAN

Cal-Fed needs to move quickly to develop some extra water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs. Water conservation cannot make the same strides it has made in the past. We will work to become more efficient, but that will take a serious effort on California's environment and economy unless new storage with additional yield comes on line soon.

Yours Truly

Bob Raggianti

Bob Raggianti
P.O. Box 175
Cathie's Valley CA 95306

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AUG 18 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

CHRISTOPHER LEE
ATTORNEY AT LAW

August 16, 2000



WALNUT GROVE

13760 Hwy. 160
P.O. Box 673
WALNUT GROVE, CA
95690
916*776*1731
FAX
916*776*1732

Steve Ritchie
Acting Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street #1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

since the early '70s, it is abundantly apparent that although the state's water needs have grown tremendously, there has been no update in allocation for additional reservoirs. You and I both know that this situation will only lead to a disaster not only for the farmers but for the general population as well.

I strongly urge you to take command, so to speak, of this process and revise the thinking in Sacramento which assumes that such a large amount of farmland can be taken out of production with relatively small economic cost. Such thinking defies reality and although may solve some problems for a five-year period, will create huge problems in the long run. I do not believe Governor Davis would approve such a plan if he were to be apprised of the true economic consequences.

I sincerely urge you to revise that section of the EIR which seeks to remove this acreage from production and instead focus directly and immediately on the creation of additional water storage.

Thank you in advance for your courtesy and consideration.

Very truly yours,

Christopher A. Lee
CHRISTOPHER A. LEE
Attorney at Law

cal/jk

cc: Sacramento Bee

RE: CALFED Final EIR report

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I write this letter as an orchard farmer located in Walnut Grove, California. I have attended numerous CALFED meetings over the past few years, and feel continued frustration with the attitude "the bureaucrat/the bureaucracy knows better" that I received in these numerous public meetings.

In a recent issue of the Farm Bureau weekly newspaper *Ag Alert*, I see that again CALFED is taking the same posture in its final EIR plan in the form of eliminating almost 250,000 acres of active farm ground.

Mr. Ritchie, it has long since passed time where the government can make unilateral decisions to take farmland out of production, especially here in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Here in Walnut Grove, because of farm reverses already in process through the Tri-Valley bankruptcy, etc., we are in danger of losing one to three businesses in our small town. Already we have seen consolidation and limitation of prices charged to the producers for goods and services necessary to our farming business.

My ranch ships products not only for domestic use here in the United States, but also exports all over the world crops such as cherries and pears of all kinds. Removing this much farmland from production will only exacerbate an already fragile economic process. It is time to enter the long-range planning similar to that engaged in by Governor Pat Brown with the creation of the California Water System. That process not only involved transportation facilities, but most importantly created additional reservoirs to make extra water available for the entire state. In 1974, then Assemblywoman Pauline Davis explained to me that although the state had a substantial number of water contracts, that the state had over-allocated them available reservoir supplies. In following this matter

C - 0 2 9 7 2 9

C-029729

Lila Prentice
9380 River Road
Chico, CA 95928

August 20, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I and my family farm several hundred acres of Almonds and Walnuts in Butte County and feel we will be affected by the Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program. The document pertaining to this program is massive and not one that can be studied in one month. I request:

1. That you extend the comment period for comments so that it could be examined in a more thorough and concise manner.
2. That you hold more public meetings in this area to explain what is being planned and how it will affect us.

There are many comments made about land being taken out of production, yet no one has been able to explain to us what or where that land is situated. We are very concerned about the environment and feel that our concerns should be heard.

I feel that it is very important to start planning for more surface water storage if we are to continue to see the population of California explode.

Sincerely,

Lila Prentice
Lila Prentice

Frank Prentice
9380 River Road
Chico, CA 95928

August 20, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am an Almond and Walnut Farmer in the Chico area of Butte County and I am alarmed that this Cal-Fed program is being rushed through at such a rapid pace. What's the big hurry?

This program will have such a far-reaching and long lasting affect that I feel the taxpaying agricultural community deserves more time and more opportunity to respond. After all, it is our money you are spending and it is our livelihood that is at stake. Those of us in agriculture have not had time to consider all the implications of your program. I ask you to consider the following:

1. Delay the enactment until all concerned understand exactly what Cal-Fed intends to do. Remember, we have to work our farms to make a living and don't always have time to attend every meeting you hold, which, by the way, are not always at a convenient time or location.
2. Let us know in plain language exactly what the end result of the Cal-Fed program will be in regards to water transfers and land procured.

Thank you,

Frank Prentice
Frank Prentice

August 17, 2000

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AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 259,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat all the same time.

But farmers can't provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farmers.

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plans has

changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

Bella Klevinger

- cc: Senator Diane Feinstein
- Senator Barbara Boxer
- Cal Woodruff Representative
- Assembly Member Mike Briggs
- Senators Gray Davis
- Senator Jim Costa + Beckman
- County Supervisors
- Dean Pionez
- Gov. Tadamovick, Rep

Ed Beoshanz
25635 County Road 96
Davis, CA 95616

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AUG 21 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 11, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a Yolo County farmer I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request you give us more time to review and comment on your document. It is much too large to digest and much too complex to understand. I also request you hold hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers.

Water for farms is used to grow plants. Those plants give off oxygen and help clean the air. Farming provides wildlife habitat while producing food. I continue to pay taxes on that land and survive on the income. This farmland has been in my family for generations. It is sustainable. I am not destroying the environment; I am helping to preserve it.

Do we really want to lose thousands of acres of farmland in California and lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants? Right now, the government owns about half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private land. Why do you think that is? I have an answer. The animals like what we are doing. Our land and water is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land properly. Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,

Ed Beoshanz, for University of Fresno Farms

Ed Beoshanz

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Doug Ose
* Yolo County Board of Supervisors

Governor Gray Davis
State Senator K. Maurice Johannessen
Assembly Member Richard Dickerson
Assembly Member Helen Thomson

that you understand the importance of good communication.

Please help us to look before we leap. The future is only what we make it, or it can be as little as we don't want it to be. The future of Cal-Fed's report was very bleak. I saw no light and a lot of loss at the end of your tunnel. When you answer to God I hope you are honest with Him about your intentions. I know He wouldn't like to be tripped in this manner. Just be thankful that I am not God because I wouldn't be as forgiving.

Let us hear the truth. Let us share our minds and our opinions. We will be honest and helpful. Without farmers there wouldn't be half of the wildlife there is now. Developing and conserve would have been in all a long time ago if it weren't for the farmer. We should be your best friends and not at odds with one another.

Thank you for your time and care. I look forward to the public hearing and a lot of explanations. Honest communication and a chance to be heard with enough time to prepare is all I am asking for.

Sincerely,
Thomas W. Creighton

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Cal Dooley - Rep. Max Kabanovitch
Governor Gray Davis
State Senator Jim Costa - State Sen. Ed. Andreguin
Assembly Member Mike Briggs - Dean Brown - Sarah Kemp
County Supervisor

August 17, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Thomas W. Creighton
2224 E. Shasta
Fresno, CA 93720

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AUG 21 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

Good day to you! I am writing you in response to the Final Programmatic EIS/EIR. To be honest, I was quite upset that our voice, the voice of agriculture, went either unheard or ignored. It wasn't that you ignored an industry; you ignored people and livelihoods that make it possible for you to eat and get dressed every single day. You ignored my voice Mr. Ritchie, and that will piss a lot of people off - including me. I'm tired of the politics and bull shit that farmers have been put through.

I am a farmer; my family's farm has been in existence for over 130 years. We have battled to keep our land. Environmental agencies and groups have tried to push us out of business many times. Flood power built by the government has signed out a whole year crop, but still we survive. Then Cal-Fed dumps a book six inches thick on us and expects us to be satisfied. I am not satisfied, and I am not happy. I believe in honesty Mr. Ritchie. Honesty is the key to happiness and compromise. You need to be honest with us.

A public hearing is needed for you to be honest with us. You need to explain the report and beat it down to the point where individuals can grasp what it means to them and all of agriculture. Farmers and others need time to review the report in its entirety. We don't have ample time to review it like others because our occupation isn't measured on a time clock. However, that a public hearing will be greatly appreciated by every California farmer, and those of us with time will be able to show everything out. We at least need to be honest about what the report means - to have a solid argument for or against it. Being a man in your position, I know

Stephanie Cole
9436 N. Baybrook #163
Fresno CA 93720

August 17, 2000

MR. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RECEIVED
AUG 21 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed had not given enough thought to the impact this land conversion will have on the environment. They need to consider new ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Cal-Fed needs to work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. In doing that, the land can provide habitat and feed the rapidly growing population all in one.

But how can farmers provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop adequate water storage to help guarantee water for the environment in any year, so it won't be taken away from the farms.

C - 0 2 9 7 3 1

C-029731

August 18, 2000

Return address / 18252 Avenue 20
Madera, CA 93637

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RECEIVED

AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

We are a sixth generation family in Madera County. We are business people and we are also farmers. Our beginnings like many Americans of years past started close to the soil as farmers. We also are considerate in working with environmentalist, blending those needs with needs of community.

We are proud of the products we produce and the fact that they are exportable and we as a nation need balanced trade. United States production of food and fiber are necessary strategic products. Our central California's East-side economies are built around agriculture. The tax bases of these local economies are almost totally agriculturally dependent.

Our population growth and growing economies require additional water storage on already contained rivers. We need to store more flood water, store for coming drought periods, commit to groundwater recharging and in the future store more water for reasonable river restoration programs.

We will support programs that demonstrate commitments to continued local control over our destiny. We know what the role of the State and Federal governments should be. Local water resource control can not be handed over to our State and Federal governments.

The present Cal-Fed plan focuses on the Eco system restoration at the expense of jobs and communities. It also places too much emphasis on Metropolitan water districts receiving water supplies from our region, again sacrificing our way of life and our children's future. Most communities are asleep about what is being proposed. If this is enacted as it stands, when awakened, the valley communities will roar loudly and boldly, calling this "foul play".

Sincerely,

William B. Pitman

William B. Pitman
Sixth Generation Resident
of Madera County
Farmer/Businessperson

CC: Madera County Farm Bureau

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed needs to tell the people how its plans have changed and how it will affect the people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plans until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

*Sincerely,
Stephanie Col*

*cc: Senator Diane Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Col. Rooley - Geo Radanouch
Gov. Gray Davis
State Senator Jim Lator
State Senator Charles Poochigian
assembly member Mike Briggs - Sarah Repo - D Flores
county Supervisors*

Major Farms, Inc.

RECEIVED

AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 18, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie
Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way, the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

But farmers can't provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review and comment upon the plan.

Sincerely,

Sig Christerson
Sig Christerson
President

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Senator Bruce McPherson
Representative Sam Farr Assemblyman Peter Frusetta
Governor Gray Davis Assemblyman Fred Keeley

Post Office Box 719, Salinas, California 93901 • Office: 831 422-9616 • Fax: 831 422-9618

Aug 17, 2000

MR. STEVE RITCHIE, ACTING EXEC DIRECTOR
CAL-FED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM
1416 NINTH ST, STE 1155
SACRAMENTO CA 95814

MIKE COSBY HEGARTY
9436 N. SAYBROOK #165
FRESNO CA 93720

RECEIVED

AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

DEAR MR. RITCHIE,

I AM A CONCERNED AGRICULTURAL SPECULATOR. CAL-FED'S PLAN IS NOT PRUDENT AND WHATS MORE I DISAGREE WHOLEHEARTEDLY WITH THE IMPACT THIS PLAN WILL HAVE ON MANY THOUSANDS OF WONDERFUL FARMING ACREAGE.

DOESNT IT MAKE SENSE STEVE, WHEN YOU REALLY THINK ABOUT IT, TO CONDUCT THIS SILLY HABITAT- RESTORATION WORK ON EXISTING GOVERNMENT- OWNED LAND AND REDUCE ITS IMPACT ON AWESOME PRODUCTIVE FARMLAND.

STEVE, FARMERS ARE A SENSITIVE AND FUN LOVING GROUP OF PEOPLE, AND THEY RECOGNISE THE NEED TO USE WATER MORE EFFICIENTLY. DONT YOU THINK WE KNOW THAT? IN FACT, OUR FARMS HAVE INCREASED TONNAGE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION BY TWO THIRDS SINCE 1967, WHILE USING LESS WATER!! YOU ARE PLAYING WITH FIRE HERE STEVE, AS THE TOLLING FARMER CANNOT GET DUMPED ON FOREVER.

COME ON STEVE. YOU'RE MESSING WITH THE ENTIRE BALANCE OF THE EARTHS RESOURCES HERE. STEVE, DO YOU KNOW FARMING GOES BACK 40,000 YEARS? IT IS AN ICON OF THIS PLANET. HOW FAR BACK DOES "HABITAT- RESTORATION WORK" GO? CHECK THE NUMBERS PAL, BUT I'M GUESSING IT IS LESS THAN 40,000 YEARS. WAKE UP AND SMELL THE WATER STEVE, IT'S GAME TIME.

Sincerely, Mike Hegarty

C - 0 2 9 7 3 2

C-029732

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
 Senator Barbara Boxer
 Rep. Cal Dooley
 Gov. Gray Davis
 State Senator Jim Costa
 State Senator Charles Poochigian
 Assembly member Mike Briggs
 County Supervisors

August 17, 2000

MATTHEW N. TAMMER
 DEL MONTE FRESH PRODUCE COMPANY
 P.O. BOX 5777
 SAN Geronimo, CA 93657

MR. STEVE RITCHIE, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 CAL-FED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM
 1416 NINTH STREET, SUITE 1155
 SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
 RE: FINAL PROGRAMMATIC EIS/EIR

RECEIVED
 AUG 21 2000
 CALFED Bay-Delta Program

DEAR MR. RITCHIE:

AS A MEMBER + REPRESENTATIVE OF A MULTI-NATIONAL FOOD SOURCE/SUPPLIER, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE YOU CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING: THINK LOCALLY, THE IMPACT WILL BE FELT GLOBALLY. A PLAN SUCH AS THIS PROPOSAL WILL HAVE A VERY FAR FILING EFFECT UPON THIS STATE + ITS PEOPLE (NOT NECESSARILY ITS FISH + WILDLIFE).

I'M A FIRM BELIEVER IN LAND PRESERVATION + HABITAT RESTORATION FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS, BUT NOT AT A HEFTY COST TO MY WELL BEING, MY FAMILY'S + MY LIVELIHOOD. THIS PLAN TO UTILIZE 250,000 ACRES WITHOUT REGARD TO PUBLIC OUTCRY / SPLITTING ONLY ENHANCES THE RIFT/DIVIDE THAT FURTHER SEPARATES GOVERNMENT/ENVIRONMENTALISM/FARMING

MY BIGGEST OPPOSITION TO THIS PLAN LEANS NOT TOWARDS THE NON-PRODUCTIVE USE OF THE LAND, BUT THE UNCERTAINTY OF THE WATER/MINERAL RIGHTS. IN NORTHERN + CENTRAL CALIFORNIA, WE HAVE GIVEN UP ENOUGH OF OUR WATER + LAND FOR HETCH-HETCHY/AQUEDUCT/CANAL PROJECTS TO FILL THE COFFERS OF THE LARGER METROPOLITAN AREAS
 (CONTINUED. PAGE 2...)

PAGE 2, CONTINUED...

OF THIS STATE, NAMELY LOS ANGELES + SAN FRANCISCO. WE CONTINUE TO FEED THESE PEOPLE, WATER THEIR LAWNS AND WATCH THEIR PROPERTY VALUES RISE, AS WE REMAIN TRAPPED IN AN ENCRONCHINGLY, SMOG-INFESTED, ENVIRONMENTALLY COMBATIVE ZONE WHERE OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE IS CONTROLLED BY PLANS, SUCH AS YOUNG'S (WHERE OUR INPUT + OPINION IS BRUSHED ASIDE TO FAST-TRACK A DECISION).

PUT THIS PROJECT ON HOLD, CONSIDER THE "VOICE OF THE VALLEY FARMERS/RANCHERS" AND THINK THROUGH WHAT WATER RIGHTS ISSUES MAY IMPACT THE BOTTOM-LINE OF YOUR DECISION...

RETHARDS,

 MATTHEW N. TAMMER

cc: SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN GOVERNOR GRAY DAVIS
 SENATOR BARBARA BOXER VICE PRESIDENT AL LENTZ

5145 N. Greenway
 Clovis, CA 93612

August 17, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
 Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
 1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RECEIVED
 AUG 21 2000
 CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

The Central Valley is very dependent on adequate, reliable, and affordable water to sustain our farms. Without water, farmland loses its value both as habitat and as a vital food resource for California's growing population. I would like to see Cal-Fed work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation.

I would like to encourage Cal-Fed to hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. How has the plan changed and how will it affect people? Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment.

Sincerely,
 Laurel Flemming

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
 Senator Barbara Boxer

Representative Cal Dooley
 Fresno Co. Supervisors
 Assemblyman Mike Briggs

Michael Powsze
691 Oxford Ave.
Clare, Ca. 95612

Chris Cromaric
15409 West D St
Kerman, CA 93630

RECEIVED
AUG 21 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 17, 2000
Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca. 95814
RE: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

August 16, 2000
Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Exec. Director
1416 Ninth St., # 1155
Sacramento, CA. 95814

RECEIVED
AUG 21 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Re: EIR

I am not an expert in environmental concerns, especially water & land conversions. However, I think that you all could hold public hearings & explain the various points.

Additionally, I think that a concerted effort on all of our parts should be done in order to minimize the ag. land conversions. If conversion is required then at least use a voluntary conversion method.

Sincerely
Chris Cromaric

cc: Senator Diane Feinstein Gov. Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Poachizien & Costa
Rep. Cal Pooley Assembly Member Flores & Reyes & Briggs
Rep. Gao Radunovich County S-poultor

8665 N. Cedar Ave #150
Fresno, Ca. 93720

August 17, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Exec. Dir.
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

RECEIVED
AUG 21 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

Having been a participant in the Cal-Fed hearings last year, it was simple to see that the program seriously lacks any balance. Cal-Fed has not taken into account that the California farmer is probably one of the best individuals in our state and nation when it comes to land conservation. The Cal-Fed plan of taking nearly 250,000 acres out of production solely for environmental concerns makes no sense at all. By integrating sound agricultural practices with voluntary habitat conservation our prime agricultural land can better serve the two-fold purpose of feeding a growing population and provide habitat at the same time. This point in itself should be given serious consideration by Cal-Fed.

But farmers can't provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must take into consideration the development of water storage with an adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farmers.

Again, balance is what the Cal-Fed program should be all about, adequately meeting the needs of many and not just benefiting the interests of a few "special interests". I feel that Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before finalizing and implementing it! Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until the citizen of this state has had adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Your consideration would be much appreciated.

Sincerely
John F. Boylan

cc Senator Diane Feinstein Gov. Gray Davis Fresno Co. Board
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Jim Costa Superior
Assemblyman Arnie Briggs
Assemblyman Dean Flores
Rep. Cal Pooley Assemblywoman Sarah Bauer

CARMEN TANNER
2405 18th Ave
Kingsburg, CA 98631

Tri-Counties Young Farmers and Ranchers

Name James A. Headrick III

RECEIVED

Address 2050 SATURN SKY WAY

AUG 21 2000

REDDING CA 96002

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

RE: CAL-FED Final EIS/EIR

August 17, 2000

Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CALFED Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a member of the Tri-Counties Young Farmers and Ranchers, I feel it is necessary to respond to your recent release of the Cal-Fed final EIS/EIR report. I am concerned about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment and vitality on farms and ranches not only throughout the state, but also those located within Shasta, Tehama, and Lassen counties.

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. Your proposed plan will take out nearly 250,000 acres of production agriculture. There has not been enough thought put into the long-term effects of this drastic land conversion.

In addition, there needs to be an emphasis on surface water storage and point of origin labeling. Water stored needs to be readily available to the farmers and ranchers within the area that it originates in times of need. Raising the Shasta Dam is not going to alleviate the problem of accessible water in the central and southern valley, instead more high flows from wet winters need to be contained and stored in above ground reservoirs to insure that there is enough water in drought conditions.

I think that Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. It is your responsibility to tell us how its plan has changed and how it will effect the people before making a final decision that could be irreversible and irretrievable.

Sincerely,

James A. Headrick III
Member, Tri-Counties Young Farmers and Ranchers

Additional Comments:

August 17, 2000
Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RECEIVED

AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal Fed needs to recognize that Cal. farmland has farmland that must be regarded as an important part of our nation's existence. With Cal-Fed's plan to acquire or control thousands of acres of Ca farmland, has the consideration been of the global + environmental impacts of this decision. If habitat-restoration work is the end goal in mind, Cal Fed can conduct this movement on existing government-owned land + reduce its impact on productive farmland. - This only leads to lost jobs, lost production + a possible loss of CA's leading edge in the world economy.

Sincerely,
Carmen M. Tanner

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Cal Dooley
Rep. Haugl Redanouch

Governor Gray Davis
State Senator Jim Costa + Ch. Prochigian
Assembly Member Mike Briggs
Assembly member Dean Pirog
Assembly member Sarah Ruffo



Shasta County Farm Bureau

3605 Bechelli Lane • Redding, CA 96002 • (530) 223-2358 • E-mail info@shastafarmbureau.com

August 17, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RECEIVED

AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As President of Shasta County Farm Bureau representing over 1600 members, I feel it is important to address some of our concerns that are raised with the recent release of your final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR. I am disturbed about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment and vitality on farms and ranches not only throughout the state, but also those located within Shasta County.

Presently, Cal-Fed does not address the issue of point of origin labeling. Water stored needs to be readily available to the farmers and ranchers within the area it originates in. Shasta County farmers recognize that we are fortunate to have an abundant supply of water that can be shared, but measures need to be taken to ensure that our farmers will have use of the water that is rightfully theirs in times of need.

In addition, there needs to be an emphasis on surface water storage. Raising the Shasta Dam is not going to alleviate the problem of storing accessible water for those in the San Joaquin Valley. The only way to guarantee adequate water supplies during drought is to capture more of the high flows during wet winters, especially in above-ground reservoirs. Otherwise, water will be taken away from farms to sustain environmental and urban uses during droughts.

Because of these, and many other impacts on the environment of rural California, and that the Cal-Fed plan appears to have changed as a result of the "framework agreement" signed in June, we need more time to evaluate the new environmental report.

I ask two things of you. First extend the period to look through the document and provide comments on the final EIS/EIR released on July 21. With thousands of pages to look through, there is just not enough time. In addition, hold public hearings to explain what you will do and how this will effect the California population. Many changes were made to the report, which the public needs to have an opportunity to understand and address. I fear that even after we review the document there will be a lot that we won't understand. Even though you may not feel obligated to tell us how the plan will affect us, it's the right thing to do.

Farmers recognize and support the need to use water more efficiently. As a result our farms have increased tonnage of agricultural production by two-thirds since 1967, while using less water. In fact, California leads the nation in production Agriculture. However, conservation has environmental consequences of its own. Cal-Fed has not done enough to study the environmental impact of this large-scale land conversion. Therefore, Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review the policy and make an informed decision on how it will affect their future.

Sincerely,

Kurt Urricelqui

Kurt Urricelqui
President, Shasta County Farm Bureau

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Wally Herger
Governor Gray Davis
State Senator Maurice Johannessen
State Assembly Dick Dickerson

County Supervisor Hawes
County Supervisor Fust
County Supervisor Clarke
County Supervisor Wilson
County Supervisor Kehoe

Tri-Counties Young Farmers and Ranchers

Name Paula Fields
Address 1210 Demall Dr.
Redding, CA 96002

RECEIVED

AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

RE: CAL-FED Final EIS/EIR

August 17, 2000

Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CALFED Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a member of the Tri-Counties Young Farmers and Ranchers, I feel it is necessary to respond to your recent release of the Cal-Fed final EIS/EIR report. I am concerned about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment and vitality on farms and ranches not only throughout the state, but also those located within Shasta, Tehama, and Lassen counties.

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. Your proposed plan will take out nearly 250,000 acres of production agriculture. There has not been enough thought put into the long-term effects of this drastic land conversion.

In addition, there needs to be an emphasis on surface water storage and point of origin labeling. Water stored needs to be readily available to the farmers and ranchers within the area that it originates in times of need. Raising the Shasta Dam is not going to alleviate the problem of accessible water in the central and southern valley, instead more high flows from wet winters need to be contained and stored in above ground reservoirs to insure that there is enough water in drought conditions.

I think that Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. It is your responsibility to tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect the people before making a final decision that could be irreversible and irremediable.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Paula Fields

Member, Tri-Counties Young Farmers and Ranchers

Additional Comments:

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein, Governor Gray Davis, State Assembly Sam Aarstad, Senator Barbara Boxer, State Senator Maurice Johannessen, State Assembly Dick Dickerson, Rep. Wally Herger, State Senator Tim Leslie



KARE

Klamath Alliance for Resources & Environment

August 17, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RECEIVED

AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

The Klamath Alliance for Resources & Environment is an organization dedicated to common sense environmental management. We believe our land, water and air environmental issues can be decided, in environmentally positive ways, without denying the needs of people. We are very concerned that the Cal-Fed program not affect the ranchers and farmers of California. The proposal to convert millions of acres from farmland to habitat and other environmental uses, is of great concern to our members. A very thorough look must be taken before any such land conversions are made. We cannot afford to lose the farms and ranches that supply food to California and the world, because of poor environmental science or lack of environmental impact studies.

KARE believes the deadline of August 21, 2000 is simply not enough time to review the massive amount of information and then comment adequately. We request that the deadline for comments be extended for a considerable amount of time. Those who will be so dramatically affected, farmers and ranchers, are in their busy season, and they must have adequate time to look at this program and respond effectively.

Too often we have seen environmental concerns lead to precipitous decisions, which are later to be proven false, often leading to harm that cannot be undone. For instance, about 10 years ago a Refuge was set aside near Sacramento and cattle that had been grazing there were removed because they would be detrimental to the goals and objectives of the Refuge. Today, cattle are being returned because experience and further scientific study has shown that the cattle were an environmental positive. While this is fine for the ranchers who are being allowed to graze there now, what about the ranchers who lost their grazing land, and perhaps were put out of business because of the hurry to make an environmental decision, without making certain it was correct? We cannot make environmental decisions that are based on politics, or hypotheses. They must be grounded in accurate science and made after much study.

Over and over we have seen how wildlife happily and fruitfully cohabit farm lands with farmers and ranchers. We believe the Cal-Fed program must make absolutely certain that their decisions do not upset this balance. And, again and again we have seen the poor stewardship record of the government, and seen how it does not equate to the positive stewardship of a private owner.

216 Lane St • P.O. Box 1234 • Yreka, CA 96097 • (530) 842-9030 • FAX (530) 842-5041



Shasta County Farm Bureau

3605 Bechell Lane • Redding, CA 96002 • (530) 223-2358 • E-mail info@shastafarmbureau.com

August 10, 2000

RECEIVED

AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a member of a Farm Bureau that represents over 1600 members, I must comment on the newly released EIS/EIR for the Cal-Fed program. I am concerned about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment on farms and ranches. Agriculture is an important part of California's environment. Your plan intends to convert nearly a quarter of a million acres of farmland to habitat and other uses. It should study the environmental impact of that land conversion and seek ways to avoid taking farmland out of production.

I know many farmers who enhance the wildlife value of their farms. We are stewards of the land and we want to be partners in environmental restoration. But we oppose requirements that tell us what to grow and how to grow it. Cal-Fed must work with us in a cooperative spirit.

To maintain productive and wildlife-friendly farms, farmers need reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must move aggressively to develop new water storage that provides adequate yield. Without more storage, California won't have enough water for the environment in dry years. That means water will be taken away from farms, especially during droughts. Without water, farmland loses its value as habitat and as a vital food resource for California's growing population.

I ask two things of you. First extend the period to look through the document and provide comments on the final EIS/EIR released on July 21. As a farmer I can't adequately review the thousands of pages in the document in the time allowed. In addition, hold public hearings to explain what you will do and the effects on us. Many changes were made to the report, which the public needs to have an opportunity to understand and address. I fear that even after we review the document there will be a lot that we won't understand. Even though you may not feel obligated to tell us how the plan will affect us, it's the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Bill Wright

Bill Wright
Treasurer, Shasta County Farm Bureau

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein, State Senator Maurice Johannessen, County Supervisor Hawes, Senator Barbara Boxer, Assembly Member Dick Dickerson, County Supervisor Wilson, Rep. Wally Herger, County Supervisor Kehoe, County Supervisor Clarke, Governor Gray Davis, County Supervisor Fust

Cal-Fed Comments

August 17, 2000

Page Two

Ranchers and farmers need to be allowed to continue their operations when they provide adequate and positive environmental conditions for wild species. 75% of the wildlife in California exists on private land. That is a telling statistic when you look at the amount of government owned land, and the millions and millions of dollars that have been spent supposedly to create habitat on those government lands.

The people of California stepped forward positively when the first indication of future water shortages was announced. The conservation plans put in place have had a positive effect. However, this type of program has a finite base, and we believe that conservation programs cannot be expected to continue to expand to meet expected needs. It is time to address other ideas, and to not put all our eggs into one basket. We need surface water storage and we need it on line as soon as possible. If we do not address water problems for farmers and ranchers today, then future draughts will be very disruptive. America produces the safest and most economical food in the world, and we do not want to become a food exporter, simply because we have failed to address important water concerns in a positive manner.

KARE asks why Cal-Fed says that the loss of a quarter of a million acres of California farmland is "unavoidable"? There is no excuse for making such a draconian decision without taking an exceptional amount of time looking for other alternatives.

KARE believes the changes that occurred when the framework agreement was signed in June, make it imperative that more time be spent evaluating this new environmental report. The public must be brought into the process in a legitimate manner, and their needs must be discussed, evaluated, and addressed. Unless and until this happens, KARE believes the current Cal-Fed program is a faulty document, and should not go forward.

Very truly yours,

Handwritten signature of Nancy J. Ingalsbee

Nancy J. Ingalsbee
Executive Director

cc: Governor Gray Davis, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer, Congressman Wally Herger, California Senator Maurice Johannessen, Assemblyman Dick Dickerson and the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

August 17, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814
FAX 916-654-9780

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I farm 750 acres of winegrapes in Napa County. I ask two things:

1. Extend the period to look through the document and provide comments on the final EIS/EIR released July 21. Thirty days is not adequate time for a citizen to review the thousands of pages in the document in the time allowed.
2. Hold public hearings to explain what you will do and the effects on us. Many changes were made to the report, which the public needs to have an opportunity to understand and discuss. I fear that even after we review the document there will be a lot that we won't understand. Even though you may not believe you are legally obligated to tell us how the plan will affect us, it's the moral and right thing to do.

Sincerely,


Tom Gamble

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Mike Thompson
Governor Gray Davis
State Senator Wes Chesbro
Assembly Member Pat Wiggins
Mel Varrelman, Chair, Napa County Supervisors

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AUG 21 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 10, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814
Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way, the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

But farmers can't provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,


Ralph Cassady
President

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Wally Herger
Governor Gray Davis
State Sen. Tim Leslie
Assembly Member Sam Aanestad
Assembly Member Richard Dickerson
Butte County Supervisors

2580 Feather River Boulevard • Oroville, California 95965 • (530) 533-1473 • Fax: (530) 533-6508

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

LOUIS VENTURINI

4696 Tokay Ranch Road, Chico, California 95926 • Telephone: Home (916) 894-3021 Ranch (916) 342-0352

August 16, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

As a livestock producer, I operate in several northern California counties and utilize several different sources of water for irrigation in my operation, from groundwater and local irrigation districts, to several licensed diversions. I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21, 2000. Even though it would affect water supplies and land use throughout much of California, the Cal-Fed Bay-Delta program wants to finalize its plan without more public hearings. Cal-Fed released its final environmental report, making little effort to let people comment on it. Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of productive farmland and ranches, loss of water, and the lack of progress on water storage facilities. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed water storage facilities, and conservation from both the urban and industrial sectors, not just from farmers and ranchers.

In addition, I do not believe Cal-Fed has adequately studied the effects of such large-scale, productive farm and ranch land conversion to riparian and wildlife habitat. I do not believe Cal-Fed has tried hard enough to minimize productive farm and ranch land losses. Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people, and should not finalize its plan until citizens have had adequate opportunity to review and comment upon it.

Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,


Louis Venturini

L.V/v

Cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Wally Herger

Governor Gray Davis
State Senator K. Maurice Johannessen
Assembly Member Sam Aanestad

August 15, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814
Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

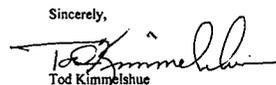
Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report, released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

Cal-Fed should conduct habitat-restoration work on existing government-owned land before it begins acquiring more land. The government already owns half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife exists on privately owned land. We have done a better job of maintaining habitat than has the government. We take seriously our roles of stewards of the environment and wish to be partners with the government. Cal-Fed should encourage landowners to enhance voluntary habitat-conservation efforts.

Cal-Fed needs to move more quickly to develop surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs. Water conservation cannot make the same strides it has made in the past. We will work to become more efficient, but drought will take a serious toll on California's environment and economy unless new storage with additional yield comes on line soon.

Sincerely,


Tod Kimmelshue
1st Vice President

cc:
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Wally Herger
Governor Gray Davis
State Sen. Tim Leslie
Assembly Member Sam Aanestad
Assembly Member Richard Dickerson
Butte County Supervisors

2580 Feather River Boulevard • Oroville, California 95965 • (530) 533-1473 • Fax: (530) 533-6508

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C-029737

①

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Dear Mr. Ritchie;

I am a third generation farmer in California. My family has farmed in Contra Costa & Alameda Counties for more than 150 years. We have been taking care of Wild life all this time. We grow wheat, Barley, Oats, Corn, Dry beans, sun flower, hay & Cattle.

It is of great concern to us how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment on farms and ranches. Agriculture is big and important part of California's environment. Cal-Fed plans to convert nearly a quarter of a million acres of farmland to habitat and other uses. It should study the environmental impact of that land conversion.

③

I think the environmental group and Cal-Fed should work with us. We own the land pay the taxes on it and Cal-Fed on the environment tell us how, what, when, to farm. With out the water none of their demands will be fulfilled. We need reliable and affordable water. We need adequate water storage to be able to meet the need of everyone and everything

Sincerely
Howard
Bethencourt

②

Cal-Fed must find ways to avoid taking farmland out of production.

I know many farmers who take care of wild life as we have for 150 years.

I know water is a necessary part of all life, and without it nothing can survive. We need more storage for the crops, Wildlife, and people. In dry years everything suffers for the lack of water. A shortage of water means a shortage of food, lumber, electricity, jobs and wild life. everything down the line suffers.

CalFed quit telling us how what and when to farm! We the people need to be informed of their plans from the begining and not after they are finalized.

John Viano
192 Morello Ave
Martinez, CA 94553

August 16, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RECEIVED
AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a 4th generation farmer in Contra Costa County, I am concerned about the Cal-Fed Final EIS/EIR Report released July 21 and how its findings will be used to change the face of California Agriculture. Not only has Cal-Fed proposed to take 250,000 acres of farmland out of production, it will be lost forever. Taking with it thousands of jobs and tax base dollars, not to mention the other ill effects on local economies.

As our population continues to grow there are ever increasing demands for food and water. New demands for food are hard to supply without land to grow it on and more water is difficult to come up with if we do not have adequate storage to store it.

Agriculture provides habitat as it exists now. Cal-Fed should work with land-owners to come up with better habitat conservation, if it is truly needed, and not take the land out of production. It has been proven that wildlife and farming operations can co-exist.

I believe that the plan is flawed and ask that you extend the comment period so the citizens have adequate time to read this huge document and comment on it.

Sincerely
John V. Viano

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. George Miller

Gov. Gray Davis
State Sen. Richard Rainey
Assemblyman Tom Torlakson
Contra Costa County Supervisors

RECEIVED
AUG 21 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 15, 2000

Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Ste. 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a resident of the Imperial County and an involved in farming land that has been in my family for nearly 50 years. Concerning the Cal-Fed environmental report, I would appreciate more time to review this information. My days are busy and finding enough time to give this issue the consideration it deserves is difficult. Also, I do not completely understand this report due to its complexity and feel holding public hearings would help myself and others understand the issues at hand.

If Cal-Fed was to do what it wants with our land, I would be detrimental to the habitat that we currently have. I would appreciate some consideration on my requests.

Sincerely,

Jared Britschgi

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AUG 21 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 15, 2000

Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Ste. 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a life long Valley resident and agriculture follower, who has the future of being an agriculture education teacher, thus making the future of agriculture a very large concern to myself, and the children I will teach. The time element you have given us to review the Cal-Fed environment report is a very large concern of mine. A report such as this, is in need of a larger time frame to review and discuss among we Valley residents. It is my opinion that you should hold various public meetings to go over such a technical report. With so many issues involved, it should be our right and your duty. The future of agriculture is at stake.

Sincerely,

Briana George

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 15, 2000

Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Ste. 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a concerned citizen of the Imperial Valley, I believe that Cal-Fed should recognize the impact this will have on the future of agriculture. Agriculture is a major revenue of our community and by taking this away you will not only affect us, but the entire country. Our farmers here provide food for the countries growing population. I think the public should have the right to voice their opinions on this matter before a final decision is made.

Sincerely,

Kari L. Foster

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AUG 21 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 15, 2000

Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Ste. 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am concerned about this Cal-Fed plan. I don't feel that you have allowed enough time for public comment. With the severity of this program I don't see how you could be unwilling to allow people that this would effect to voice their opinions. I'm from the Imperial Valley and the nearest place for public comment is 2 1/2 hours away. Our valley is on the Cal-Fed plan and we haven't even had a public hearing to voice our opinion.

Sincerely,

Craig Smith

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 15, 2000

Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Ste. 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

Manuel Castro

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 15, 2000

Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Ste. 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a fourth generation cattleman concerned about the future. It is imperative that we have more time to review and discuss the Cal-Fed environmental report released July 21. I work late hours and have no time to review this plan. Please make newer reports that a regular working guy like me might understand.

Sincerely,

Patrick Jenkins
Phillips Cattle Co.
910 Nichols Rd.
El Centro, CA 92243

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 15, 2000

Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Ste. 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am an Imperial County farmer and am concerned about the future of agriculture in my area. I ask you:

1. Give us more time to review and comment on the final Cal-Fed environment report.
2. Hold public hearings to explain this plan.

Our agriculture land has many habitats and wildlife as well as the Los Angeles area. Instead of taking our farmland, stop building more cities! Please allow for more time and discussion on this topic, as it is detrimental to our survival the Imperial Valley.

Sincerely,

Brett Reeves Gerard Irugaray

Warren Merwin
49719 Willow Point
Clarksburg, CA 95612

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AUG 21 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 11, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a Yolo County farmer I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request you give us more time to review and comment on your document. It is much too large to digest and much too complex to understand. I also request you hold hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers.

Water for farms is used to grow plants. Those plants give off oxygen and help clean the air. Farming provides wildlife habitat while producing food. I continue to pay taxes on that land and survive on the income. This farmland has been in my family for generations. It is sustainable. I am not destroying the environment; I am helping to preserve it.

Do we really want to lose thousands of acres of farmland in California and lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants? Right now, the government owns about half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private land. Why do you think that is? I have an answer. The animals like what we are doing. Our land and water is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land properly. Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,

Warren Merwin

Warren Merwin

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Doug Ose
Yolo County Board of Supervisors

Governor Gray Davis
State Senator K. Maurice Johannessen
Assembly Member Richard Dickerson
Assembly Member Helen Thomson

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AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CALFED Bay/Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca 95814

August 15, 2000

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Tim Doherty, I farm rice, almonds, wine grapes, alfalfa and four other crops in Yolo, Colusa, and Sutter Counties. I farm these crops in a partnership with my two older brothers and my father. We are fifth generation Californian farmers, we have strong ties to the land, and in many ways consider ourselves protectors of it.

I am writing to ask you to prolong the period in which to look over and comment on the CalFed EIS/EIR that was released on July 21, 2000. I was unable to get my hands on the report for several days after you released it. It is difficult for me to adequately review the document in the short period of time given. I work 65-75 hrs per week, so in the evenings after a full days work I read the CalFed EIS/EIR. I would simply like more time to comment on the report. I also request you hold hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

It is my strong belief that more surface water is needed for this generation and the ones to come. I am concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on water storage. Without surface water we will overuse our limited ground water (which by the way isn't all high quality) and future generations of farmers and conservationists will be left without

Our farm is teeming with wild life: wild pigs, deer, pheasant, ducks, geese, hawks, eagles, wild turkeys, foxes, just to name a few. I hesitate to think what it would be like without water.

I'm also of the opinion that before the government purchases more ground, it should better manage the land it already owns. We are private landowners who do a better job of managing our wildlife habitat than does the government who have all the "experts".

Lastly, our economy not only of our local rural area, but statewide included, will suffer mightily if more ground is taken out of production (whether by conservation or lack of water). I do not think CalFed tried hard enough to minimize farmland losses, let's try and do something about it.

Sincerely

Tim Doherty
Tim Doherty

CC: Governor Davis Dianne Feinstein Barbara Boxer
Doug Ose

SALINAS LAND COMPANY
PHYSICAL ADDRESS: 4457 TEAGUE AVENUE
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 686 - KING CITY, CALIFORNIA 95330-0686
PHONE (831) 385-3858 - FAX (831) 385-5909

August 18, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Re: Cal-Fed Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

I am concerned that the Cal-Fed EIS/EIR is not adequately recognizing California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. With the Cal-Fed plan taking about 250,000 acres out of agricultural production there will be a significant impact to the environment with this land conversion. The Cal-Fed plan needs to make every effort and to seriously evaluate the ways to reduce this loss of farmland.

Most farmers are vitally aware of the need to protect our natural resources of land and water and I believe many would be willing to work with the Cal-Fed plan on a voluntary habitat conservation basis. It is important to provide a reliable food supply for our growing population. It would be desirable to balance these competing needs in an equitable manner and protect our valuable farmland resources.

Farmers need an affordable and reliable water supply to feed our growing population. The natural habitat area is currently using a very significant amount of land area and water resources in California. I believe it is essential for the Cal-Fed plan to include new water storage for agricultural, industrial and urban uses. Our current water supply will be in serious jeopardy in the event of drought that can extend a number of years. We are not adequately prepared for drought in this state at this time.

I request that Cal-Fed hold additional public hearings to fully explain Cal-Feds current plans before the plan becomes final. The 6,500 page document is huge and complex. The people deserve to know how the plan has changed and how it will affect the people of California. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have an adequate opportunity to review and comment on this very important document.

Sincerely,

L.P. Porter

Lawrence Porter
General Manager

CC: Senator Barbara Boxer Senator Dianne Feinstein State Sen. Bruce McPherson
Congressman Sam Farr Gov. Gray Davis Assemblyman Peter Frusetta
Assemblyman Fred Keeley Ca. Farm Bureau Fed. Mo. Co. Bd. of Supervisors

CORPORATE OFFICE, P.O. BOX 25910-63 N. ASH ST., VENTURA, CALIF 93002
PHONE (805) 648-3363 - FAX (805) 648-4603

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AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

CC
Senator Feinstein
Senator Boxer
Governor Davis
Sup: Simitian
Sup: Dr. Gage
State Senator McPherson

SILVER OAKS
RANCH

5770 CROY ROAD, MORGAN HILL, CA 95037
(408) 778-6271 • (408) 779-8691 FAX

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AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

8/16/00

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

I own a small farm of 450 acres in Los Morgan Hill. We raise Bedford beef cattle for the high-end restaurants & supermarkets in the greater Bay Area.

Both Ranch land and flat farmland is being consumed at a rapid rate, in California, by developers who build huge houses, cheek to jowl, on this valuable & diminishing resource - our farm lands. We also have competing for these lands, Open Space Advocates, Green belt, Parks & Recreation, environmentalists and the Sierra Club.

I have read, within the next twenty (20) years, we will need to import food from our neighbors as well as from across the seas. Our incredibly fertile lands in the South Counties, Central Valley, Sacramento Delta etc: will no longer be left in large enough tracts to allow viable farming. Instead the farmer will sell to developers or Cal-Fed.

It is a frightening scenario. We will be at the mercy & whims of our supplying countries - rather like we find ourselves with oil supplies from the Middle East.

Food will become the final bargaining chip. Therefore farm land must be protected and farmed responsibly... so that coming generations will enjoy the fruits of our rich California soil.
Sincerely, *[Signature]*

C - 0 2 9 7 4 1

C-029741

Gary Sack
9471 Denholm Court
Elk Grove, CA 95758

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AUG 09 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

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AUG 24 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 14, 2000

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

August 7, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I have major concerns about the Cal-Fed Final Programmatic EIS/EIR released July 21, 2000. Federal regulators are given broad new authority over California's water rights. What assurance do we have that local and state agencies will retain their control of California's water? The plan removes from production nearly a quarter-million acres of California farmland. Your report says it is "unavoidable." I don't feel Cal-Fed looked hard enough to avoid those losses.

Currently the government owns half the land in California, yet 75% of the wildlife reside on private land. That should tell you that farmers and ranchers are doing something right in their stewardship of land, water, and the environment. Many of the types of farms targeted to come out of production are wildlife friendly, if they have an adequate and affordable water supply.

With California's burgeoning population, we now have water and energy rationing. There is little regard to hydroelectric power. I am concerned that in times of drought Cal-Fed will take water away from farms, making the effects of droughts even more severe. It will hurt families and affect the price of food to working families, and it will disrupt the environment.

I request you: (1) Extend the comment period. (2) Hold public hearings to explain what you will do and the effects on us. The public needs to have an opportunity to understand and discuss this document. Even though you may not believe you are obligated to tell us how the plan will affect us, it's the right thing to do.

Last year you held 16 hearings, I attended many of them. There were 1,000 representatives of agriculture who attended; more than half the people who testified were farm and ranch families and their neighbors. Did you hear them?

There was testimony of the wildlife that exists on farms and ranches and what some of these people were doing to enhance wildlife. Just think of what the possibilities if the government tried to be a partner, instead of an adversary.

Sincerely,

Gary Sack
Gary Sack

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Senator Barbara Boxer Governor Gray Davis
Congressman Robert Matsui State Sen. Patrick Johnston Rep. Anthony Pescotti
Sacramento Board of Supervisors

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Please extend the time to read, study and comment on the final environmental report released July 21.

Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan. If we have to abide by it, we need to know how we fit into the plan.

Cal-Fed must give strong recognition to California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. This plan would remove nearly 250,000 acres of farmland from production. There is an environmental impact to this land conversion and Cal-Fed needs to give it more thoughtful consideration. The plan should try to find more ways to reduce the loss of farmland in California.

Sincerely,
Charles H. Wallin
Charles H. Wallin
20481 Summitview Rd
Sonoma, CA 95370

Sandy Caughton
9438 N. Saylorbrook #165
Fresno, CA 93720

August 17, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Dir.
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St. Ste 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

I work in agri-business and my family has been farming in Kern County for over 4 generations. But I worry about whether or not that will continue. Why? CAL FED

The document is so long we can't understand it. What I can tell is that there is a lot of provisions for the environment and wildlife and not much for the people who depend on the land for producing the food that we eat. Farmers and ranchers are also conservationists and we care for the land and animals but nobody likes to be told what to do.

- We:
- 1) Want public hearings to explain the document
 - 2) Less gov't ownership or acquisition of land
 - 3) More provisions for use of water
 - 4) Care about affordable water
 - 5) And a reliable water source

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AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Water storage is absolutely necessary without any delay. We call need to pitch in and give a little to make this happen. Ag shouldn't be the only one giving something up.

* Please Do Not Finalize Anything on the EIR without more input from agriculture.
Sincerely,
Sandy Caughton

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Col. Donley & Rep. Radanovich
Gov. Gray Davis
State Senator Jim Costa
State Senator Charles Pochizian
Assemblymember Mike Briggs - Board Reps - Kern Co. Supervisors

Kendall J. Crighorn
2224 E. Serena
Fresno, CA 93720

August 17, 2000

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AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way, the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

Not farmers can't provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must elevate water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plan before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

Kendall J. Crighorn

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Cal Dooley - Representative Les Redanovich
Governor Gray Davis
State Senator Jim Costa - St. Sen. Cl. Poochigian
Assembly Member Mike Briggs - Assem. Del. Peter Rosemeron
County Supervisor Salaki Lopez

Hannah Tangeman-Cheney
P.O. Box 850
Susanville, CA 96130
(530)257-7262

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AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Stolt Sea Farm California LLC

A subsidiary of
Stolt-Nielsen S.A.

9149 East Levee Road,
Elverta, CA 95626

Telephone:
Facsimile:

(916) 991-4420
(916) 991-4334



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AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

17 August 2000

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

As a member of the agricultural community of Sacramento County, I would like to make a few comments regarding the Cal-Fed process.

- 1) The time period proposed for public comment for the EIS/EIR document released on 21 July 00 is simply too short when the document size, plan complexity, and impact on the public is taken into account. I strongly recommend that the public review period be extended.
- 2) The ramifications of this complex report to the general public are enormous. I believe Cal Fed has an obligation to the public to have a series of regional public hearings that will allow for questions to be answered as to how this plan will affect each and every one of us.

I am concerned that CalFed has not adequately addressed the issues of farmland losses. From a state and national perspective, where will the displaced crops be produced once viable farmland is taken out of production. The only logical answer is imports which is completely counterproductive.

There is federal and state land that should be considered and used prior to encroaching on private property.

Farmers are by definition, stewards of the environment. I don't believe that creative solutions that allow farmland to continue producing crops and incorporate aspects of habitat conservation have been adequately considered.

Water is and will continue to be a critical issue for this state. Farmers know this better than anyone since their livelihood depends on a dependable supply of water. I don't debate that a statewide water plan is necessary. I do debate the manner in which it is suggested. I would hope that with public input, new ideas will be brought forth that will reduce the suggested loss of almost 250,000 acres of farmland in this state.

Sincerely,

Jim Michael

Jim Michaels

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Doug Ose

Governor Gray Davis
Senator Deborah Ortiz
Assembly Member Dave Cox

Supervisor Dickinson
Supervisor Collin
Supervisor Johnson
Supervisor Neillo
Supervisor Nottoli

August 15, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I attended a standing room only (both inside and outside) hearing last year in Chico. The message delivered that night was overwhelming in numbers and voices that agriculture needed to be protected in the Cal-Fed document. Urban and rural voices alike spoke to the value of ag to our economy and landscape.

The Cal-Fed plan is flawed. I am disappointed that Cal-Fed and its agencies turned a deaf ear to more than 1,000 representatives of agriculture who attended you 16 hearings last year. Surface water storage was one of the main points of the message. With our rapidly growing population in California, storage is the only way to accommodate that need. Putting farmers out of production is not the answer.

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released just July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so we who must be bound by it can understand how we fit in the plan.

Existing surface water rights must be respected. Agriculture cannot survive without water.

Sincerely,

Hannah Tangeman-Cheney

Hannah Tangeman-Cheney

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer

Governor Gray Davis
Senator Tim Leslie

Rep. Wally Herger
Assemblyman Sam Aanastad



MIKE HOWARD
 36727 Road 20
 Woodland, CA 95695
 Office (530) 661-3366
 Fax (530) 662-3366
 Mobile (530) 908-3366

Duane Chamberlain
 34530 County Road 29
 Woodland, CA 95695

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 CALFED Bay-Delta Program

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 CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 17, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
 Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
 1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am concerned about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment on farms and ranches. Agriculture is an important part of California's environment. Cal-Fed plans to convert nearly a quarter of a million acres of farmland to habitat and other uses. It should study the environmental impact of that land conversion. Cal-Fed must seek ways to avoid taking farmland out of production.

I know many farmers who enhance the wildlife value of their farms. We are stewards of the land and we want to be partners in environmental restoration. But we oppose requirements that tell us what to grow and how to grow it. Cal-Fed must work with us in a cooperative spirit.

To maintain productive and wildlife-friendly farms, farmers need reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must move aggressively to develop new water storage that provides adequate yield. Without more storage, California won't have enough water for the environment in dry years. That means water will be taken away from farms, especially during droughts. Without water, farmland loses its value as habitat and as a vital food resource for California's growing population.

Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

Mike Howard
 Mike Howard

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Supervisor Lynnel Pollock
 Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Maurice Johannessen
 Rep. Doug Ose Assembly Member Helen Thomson

Esther M. Smith
 12301 Powerhouse Road
 Potter Valley, California
 95469

RECEIVED
 AUG 21 2000
 CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 17, 2000

Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
 Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
 1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland is a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan will take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the economic and environmental impact of this land conversion. The plans need to look for ways to reduce the loss of productive, rich farmland.

Farmers are willing to voluntarily work with Cal-Fed on habitat conversion. If Cal-Fed will work cooperatively with the farmers, the land can continue to help feed our continuously increasing population and provide habitat at the same time.

Farmers cannot provide habitat nor feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water will not have to be taken away from food producing farms.

Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it. Public hearings, to explain the Cal-Fed plans and how people, including farmers, will be affected, need to be held before those plans become final.

Sincerely,

Esther M. Smith
 Esther M. Smith

August 11, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
 Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
 1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a Yolo County farmer I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request you give us more time to review and comment on your document. It is much too large to digest and much too complex to understand. I also request you hold hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers.

Water for farms is used to grow plants. Those plants give off oxygen and help clean the air. Farming provides wildlife habitat while producing food. I continue to pay taxes on that land and survive on the income. This farmland has been in my family for generations. It is sustainable. I am not destroying the environment, I am helping to preserve it.

Do we really want to lose thousands of acres of farmland in California and lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants? Right now, the government owns about half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private land. Why do you think that is? I have an answer. The animals like what we are doing. Our land and water is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land properly. Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,

Duane Chamberlain
 Duane Chamberlain

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
 Senator Barbara Boxer State Senator K. Maurice Johannessen
 Rep. Doug Ose Assembly Member Richard Dickerson
 Yolo County Board of Supervisors Assembly Member Helen Thomson

13171 Grand Island Road
 Walnut Grove, CA 95690

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 AUG 21 2000
 CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 17, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
 Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
 1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I farm pears, alfalfa, corn, wheat, safflower, and tomatoes in the Delta. I also provide hunting opportunities for many people to preserve wildlife habitat along with the farming operation. I ask two things, and then shall comment on the document. The requests are:

1. Extend the period to look through the document and provide comments on the final EIS/EIR released July 21. As a farmer I can't adequately review the thousands of pages in the document in the time allowed.
2. Hold public hearings to explain what you will do and the effects on us. Many changes were made to the report, which the public needs to have an opportunity to understand and discuss. I fear that even after we review the document there will be a lot that we won't understand. Even though you may not believe you are obligated to tell us how the plan will affect us, it's the right thing to do.

Comments: I believe that in trying to protect the environment, the Cal-Fed plan actually will harm it instead. Taking thousands of acres of land out of production will change the face of California agriculture dramatically. It will have a huge impact on the environment, not to mention local economies. When the land in private ownership stops providing food, a tax base and wildlife habitat, what happens to that land?

The farm environment where wildlife has gathered will be forever changed. Those crops won't be grown. Many species now occupy the acres of farmland Cal-Fed proposes to take out of production. They are there because of the habitat provided by farmers and ranchers. History shows that the government has not done a good job of protecting and repopulating these species. Cooperative arrangements with landowners have worked better.

The Cal-Fed plan is flawed. I am disappointed that Cal-Fed and its agencies have turned a deaf ear to the more than 1,000 representatives of agriculture who attended your 16 hearings last year. Of the 800 people who spoke, most were farmers and ranchers and their families and neighbors. These people are stewards of the environment, managing land and water that produces food, wildlife and oxygen.

Sincerely, *Michael McDowell*

Michael McDowell

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
 Senator Barbara Boxer State Senator
 Representative Assembly Member

RECEIVED

AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

15463 Poverty Road
Walnut Grove, CA 95690

RECEIVED

13171 Grand Island Road
Walnut Grove, CA 95690

AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 17, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a interested young agriculturist, I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request you give us more time to review and comment on your document. It is much too large to digest and much too complex to understand. I also request you hold hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers.

Water for farms is used to grow plants. Those plants give off oxygen and help clean the air. Farming provides wildlife habitat while producing food. I continue to pay taxes on that land and survive on the income. This farmland has been in my family for generations. It is sustainable. I am not destroying the environment; I am helping to preserve it.

Do we really want to lose thousands of acres of farmland in California and lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants? Right now, the government owns about half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private land. Why do you think that is?

I have an answer. The animals like what we are doing. Our land and water is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land properly.

Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,

Michelle McDowell

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Senator
Representative Assembly Member

August 17, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way, the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

But farmers can't provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

Anthony Borba

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Senator
Representative Assembly Member

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AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

11701 Crest Hill Drive
Elk Grove, CA 95624

August 17, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As an interested young agriculturist, I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request you give us more time to review and comment on your document. It is much too large to digest and much too complex to understand. I also request you hold hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers.

Water for farms is used to grow plants. Those plants give off oxygen and help clean the air. Farming provides wildlife habitat while producing food. I continue to pay taxes on that land and survive on the income. This farmland has been in my family for generations. It is sustainable. I am not destroying the environment; I am helping to preserve it.

Do we really want to lose thousands of acres of farmland in California and lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants? Right now, the government owns about half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private land. Why do you think that is?

I have an answer. The animals like what we are doing. Our land and water is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land properly.

Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,

Shawn Stratars

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Senator
Representative Assembly Member

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AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

3206 Hood Franklin Road
Elk Grove, CA 95758

August 17, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

[I ranch 130 acres in which we have a commercial hog and cattle operation. When we irrigate our pasture and we purposely let the water run into the low lands which are habitat to many species of birds and small animals.

The government already owns half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife exists on privately owned land. We have done a better job of maintaining habitat than has the government. We take seriously our roles of stewards of the environment and wish to be partners with the government. Cal-Fed should encourage landowners to enhance voluntary habitat-conservation efforts.

Cal-Fed needs to move more quickly to develop surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs. Water conservation cannot make the same strides it has made in the past. We will work to become more efficient, but drought will take a serious toll on California's environment and economy unless new storage with additional yield comes on line soon.

Sincerely,

John Greber

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Senator
Representative Assembly Member

C - 0 2 9 7 4 5

C-029745

Julia Daehling
10045 Grant Line Road
Elk Grove, CA 95624

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AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 17, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am concerned about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment on farms and ranches. Agriculture is an important part of California's environment. Cal-Fed plans to convert nearly a quarter of a million acres of farmland to habitat and other uses. It should study the environmental impact of that land conversion. Cal-Fed must seek ways to avoid taking farmland out of production.

My land has been farmed since 1973. I am studying agriculture and my goal is to continue the family farm. We provide many areas of wildlife habitat between the fields that we farm. We do not hunt on our farm, which provides wildlife a natural and unharmed place to live. On our land, we provide nesting boxes for wood ducks. We also have a buffer strip between our vineyard and the river, to help clean irrigation water that drains into the river.

I know many farmers who enhance the wildlife value of their farms. We are stewards of the land and we want to be partners in environmental restoration. But we oppose requirements that tell us what to grow and how to grow it. Cal-Fed must work with us in a cooperative spirit.

To maintain productive and wildlife-friendly farms, farmers need reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must move aggressively to develop new water storage that provides adequate yield. Without more storage, California won't have enough water for the environment in dry years. That means water will be taken away from farms, especially during droughts. Without water, farmland loses its value as habitat and as a vital food resource for California's growing population.

Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

Julia Daehling
Julia Daehling

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Senator
Representative Assembly Member

STEVEN H. FICKLIN

7115 ROAD 31
MADERA, CA 93837
TELEPHONE (559) 674-7312

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AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 15, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Please extend the period to look through the document and provide comments on the final EIS/EIR released July 21, 2000. I personally need more time to review this document. Also I would like public hearings held to explain how this will affect myself and my family as farmers.

I am very concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As the population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers.

Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,

Steven H. Ficklin

Steven H. Ficklin

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Assembly Member Dean Florez
Senator Barbara Boxer Madera County Supervisors:
Rep. George Radanovich Frank Bigelow
Rep. Gary A. Condit Vern Moss
State Sen. Jim Costa Gail Hanhart McIntyre
Governor Gray Davis John V. Silva
State Sen. Richard Monteith Assembly Member George House
Art Dove



Nash Ranch

10615 Old Oregon Trail, Redding, CA 96003
phone: 530-221-2904 or 530-225-2762 fax: 530-225-2769
email: mnash@shastalink.k12.ca.us Or mnash@scdodd.org

FROM THE DESK OF
BOB NASH

RECEIVED

AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 18, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Regrettably, I find the present Cal-Fed process and the recently published final Environmental Impact Statement / Report a very thinly veiled maneuver by urban bureaucratic interests to divert water away from the California agriculture industry in the name of the environment. Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource as well as a crucial economic base for the State of California. The Cal-Fed plan will take nearly 250,000 acres of farmland out of production in the name of the environment. Further, Cal-Fed promotes future farmland idling water transfers to urban uses. Cal-Fed has not given reasonable consideration to the environmental impact of the proposed direct or the indirect idling of farm land and it has given no consideration to the economic impact of such a conversion of farmland. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Farmers can't contribute to provision of wildlife habitat or feed people or contribute to the economy without farmland and without reliable and affordable water. California agricultural water use has not increased in the past thirty years all the while production has increased nearly three fold. California agriculture will not need an increase in supply of water in the future, but it does and will continue to need a reliable and affordable supply of water. At the same time, the relevant wildlife habitat continues to need and deserves a more reliable supply. And future urban growth dictates additional need for water well into the future. Cal-Fed can help farmers additionally contribute to wildlife habitat without idling vast acreages of prime farm land. Further, Cal-Fed must develop environmentally sound additional water storage with adequate yield. Additional water storage will help provide water supply for the environment and future increased water supply for urban use without taking water supply away from agriculture, the largest economy in California.

One of the questions that I am unable to answer is: what happens to all the water presently applied as irrigation to the proposed 250,000 acre farmland conversion? It seems safe to assume that neither US Fish and Wildlife nor California Fish and Game will continue irrigating so called wildlife habitat. Does that unused irrigation water, probably as much as 700,000 acre feet or more, then become available to the highest bidder? Or does it just run out the San Francisco Bay?

Page -2- Steve Ritchie, Cal - Fed

I really fear for the future of Agriculture in northern California, especially the Sacramento Valley. The potential economic impact is staggering.

Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final so that the public and the agriculture industry can better understand how the Cal-Fed plan has changed and how it will affect people and agriculture. Further, Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until has been adequate opportunity to review and comment.

Sincerely,

Robert Nash

Robert Nash, Owner-Operator

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Wally Herger
Governor Gray Davis
State Sen. Maurice Johannessen
Assembly Member Dick Dickerson
Chairman of the Shasta County Board of Supervisors, Irwin Fust
Chairman of the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors, Kay Bryan



Superior California Economic Development

Madre • Shasta • Siskiyou • Trinity

737 Auditorium Dr., Suite A • Redding, CA 96001 • (530) 225-2760 • FAX (530) 225-2769

August 18, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource as well as a crucial economic base for the State of California. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres of farm land out of production in the name of the environment. Cal-Fed has not given reasonable consideration to the environmental impact of the proposed farm land conversion and it has given no consideration to the economic impact of such a conversion of farmland. The plan must look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way, the land can help feed our growing population, continue to contribute to the largest economic base in California as well as the most important agricultural economy in the world, while at the same time provide habitat for wild life.

Farmers can't provide habitat or feed people or contribute to the economy without land and without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop environmentally sound water storage with adequate yield. Additional water storage will help provide water supply for the environment and future increased water supply for urban use without taking water supply away from agriculture.

Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final so that the public and the agriculture industry can better understand how the Cal-Fed plan has changed and how it will affect people and agriculture. Further, Cal-Fed should not finalize the plan until there has been adequate opportunity to review and comment.

Sincerely,
Robert Nash, Executive Officer

- cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Wally Herger
Governor Gray Davis
State Sen. Maurice Johannessen
Assembly Member Dick Dickerson
Chairman of the Shasta County Board of Supervisors, Irwin Fust
Chairman of the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors, Kay Bryan

Tri-Counties Young Farmers and Ranchers

Name Jennifer Howarth
Address 21807 N. Cottonwood
Bunny, CA 96013

RECEIVED
AUG 21 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

RE: CAL-FED Final EIS/EIR

August 17, 2000

Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CALFED Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a member of the Tri-Counties Young Farmers and Ranchers, I feel it is necessary to respond to your recent release of the Cal-Fed final EIS/EIR report. I am concerned about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment and vitality on farms and ranches not only throughout the state, but also those located within Shasta, Tehama, and Lassen counties.

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. Your proposed plan will take out nearly 250,000 acres of production agriculture. There has not been enough thought put into the long-term effects of this drastic land conversion.

In addition, there needs to be an emphasis on surface water storage and point of origin labelling. Water stored needs to be readily available to the farmers and ranchers within the area that it originates in times of need. Raising the Shasta Dam is not going to alleviate the problem of accessible water in the central and southern valley, instead more high flows from wet winters need to be contained and stored in above ground reservoirs to insure that there is enough water in drought conditions.

I think that Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. It is your responsibility to tell us how its plan has changed and how it will effect the people before making a final decision that could be irreversible and irretreivable.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Howarth
Member, Tri-Counties Young Farmers and Ranchers

Additional Comments:

- cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Wally Herger
Governor Gray Davis
State Senator Maurice Johannessen
State Senator Tim Lestie
State Assembly Sam Aaneslad
State Assembly Dick Dickerson



Shasta County Farm Bureau

3605 Bechelli Lane • Redding, CA 96002 • (530) 223-2358 • E-mail info@shastafarmbureau.com

August 10, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a member of Shasta County Farm Bureau representing over 1600 members, I feel it is necessary to comment on your recently released EIS/EIR for the Cal-Fed plan. I am concerned about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment on farms and ranches. Not only is Agriculture vital to the well being of California's environment, it is also the number one industry. According to the EIS/EIR, Cal-Fed plans to convert nearly a quarter of a million acres of farmland to habitat and other uses. Before it takes this drastic step, it should study the environmental impact of that land conversion.

As a farmer I understand that wildlife habitat is crucial in keeping our land profitable. We are stewards of the land and we want to be partners in environmental restoration. But we oppose requirements that tell us what to grow and how to grow it based upon what is deemed important. Cal-Fed must work with us in a cooperative spirit, with the same goals in mind.

Concurrently, to maintain productive and wildlife-friendly farms, farmers need reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must move aggressively to develop new water storage that provides adequate yield. Without more storage, California won't have enough water for the environment in dry years. That means water will be taken away from farms, especially during droughts. Without water, farmland loses its value as habitat and as a vital food resource for California's growing population.

Cal-Fed needs to hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. It's responsibility should be in clarifying questions, and addressing concerns by the citizens that are going to be affected by drastic changes in their land use and availability of water. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it, comment on it, and make some educated decisions on the future of water in California.

Sincerely,
Kurt Urriolqui
President, Shasta County Farm Bureau

- cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Wally Herger
Governor Gray Davis
State Sen. Maurice Johannessen
Assembly Member Dick Dickerson
County Supervisor Clarke
County Supervisor Kehoe
County Supervisor Wilson
County Supervisor Fust
County Supervisor Hawes

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AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

LARRY A. GILBERT
945 East Worthington Road
IMPERIAL, CA 92251-9764

August 20, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am concerned that Cal-Fed's proposed program to divert water away from agriculture will not only reduce agricultural production and adversely affect the economy, but will also result in a net loss to the environment.

Water is used by cultivated plants to produce food and fiber, stimulate our economy, clean our atmosphere and enhance its oxygen content, and provide food and enhanced habitat for many species of birds and terrestrial animals (including game species). The channels and reservoirs conveying water to farms provide additional acres of water habitat for a wide variety of fish and other aquatic life, including birds. Agriculture areas include nutrient-rich habitats that range from arid to wetlands, from open to tree-covered, and from open space to urban.

Removing nearly a quarter million acres from agricultural uses can become part of a misguided trend toward converting habitat-rich farmland back into a comparative environmental wasteland, with only minor benefits to a few in-stream species. This would be a great tragedy.

No agricultural land should be retired from production without a thorough, comprehensive study which includes an analysis of the environmental benefits that would be lost by eliminating the agricultural use of the water.

Consider the Imperial-Coachella Valleys, where I farm. Water is diverted thru hundreds of miles of new waterways and tremendously

enhances the environmental productivity of nearly a million acres into a species-rich environmental wonderland. Results include the production of more than a billion dollars worth of food and fiber products, a home for about 400 species of birds (a bird watchers' and hunters' paradise), and the most productive fishery in California.

California farms are capital intensive. They must have a reliable water supply to justify the large investments that make their efficiency the envy of the world. California needs a more reliable water supply for its farms, not more uncertainty about water rights and supply.

Cal-Fed is proposing a drastic move. Such a change must not be made unless and until a comprehensive and full analysis of anticipated results has been completed and fully disclosed to the public. Then a full opportunity for public review and time to comment must be provided.

Sincerely,

Larry A Gilbert

Larry A Gilbert

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
 Senator Barbara Boxer State Senator Dave Kelley
 Rep. Duncan Hunter Assemblyman Jim Battin
 I. C. Supervisor Dean Shores



TEHAMA COUNTY FARM BUREAU

8/16/00
 Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
 CALFED Bay-Delta Program

23550 Cone Grove Rd
 Red Bluff CA 96080

RECEIVED
 AUG 23 2000
 CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a fifth generation farm farmer I have very strong concerns about the future of my family's farm. Being a young farmer it is very important to me that agriculture continues to be a viable part of California's economy.

I have a very uneasy feeling created by the impact of Cal-Fed proposal program. It is of great concern that agriculture is represented with the intention of keeping scraps of the family farms out of the program.

It is also a great concern as to what impact Cal-Fed will place on my county of Tehama's ground water. I fear the detrimental pumping and export of our ground water.

Cal-Fed needs to hold more public meetings in order to explain the plans of Cal-Fed before they become final.

Sincerely,
Tyler Christensen
 Tyler Christensen

Bus: (530) 527-7882
 Fax: (530) 527-6028
 645 Antelope Blvd., Suite 17
 Red Bluff, California 96080



TEHAMA COUNTY FARM BUREAU

August 16, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
 Cal Fed Bay-Delta Program
 1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
 Sacramento, Ca. 95814

*John C. Orr
 10477 7th St N
 Red Bluff
 CA
 96080*

RECEIVED
 AUG 23 2000
 CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Ritchie:

As a farmer in the Sacramento Valley, my family has always taken pride in enhancing the wildlife value of our farm and many others do also. We take seriously our role as stewards of the environment and want to be partners in restoration activities. But farmers oppose requirement that we what to grow and how to grow it. Cal-Fed must work with farmers in a cooperative spirit

I feel Cal-Fed should hold public hearing to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people.

Sincerely,
John C. Orr

cc: Governor Gray Davis
 Senator Dianne Feinstein
 Senator Barbara Boxer
 Rep. Doug Cox

RECEIVED
 AUG 21 2000
 CALFED Bay-Delta Program

1331 Valley View Circle
 Lincoln, CA 95648

August 19, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
 Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
 1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a Placer County Cattle Rancher relatively small in size. However, I am deeply concerned with the future of Agriculture in Placer County. I was raised on a small farm here in Placer County and I want the same for my kids. I have volunteered much of my free time to the Fish and Game Dept. in Northern California, so I am quite familiar with the challenges of preserving wildlife habitat.

I have a full time job with Pacific Bell Telephone Company, so I am also fully aware of the future plans of urban growth in Placer County. This type of dynamic growth often times squeezes out the wildlife leaving nearby ranches their only refuge. These nearby ranches rely on local water supply for grazing and crops that directly benefit local wildlife. Without this water supply, we would have (in many areas) nothing less than wasteland covered with star thistle.

I realize that in many cases ignorance is bliss, however, this subject of Cal-Fed concerns me enough that I do not wish to remain ignorant. I would like to see public hearings held on this matter, as well as a thorough outline supplied to the local Farm Bureau to be disseminated to the local ranchers, prior to the public hearings. In all systems there must be a balance, and I truly believe that local farms and ranches play an integral part of local ecosystems. It is for this reason that our side must be heard before any new policies are put into action. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,
Blaine Estlinger
 Blaine Estlinger

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
 Senator Barbara Boxer
 Governor Gray Davis

Bus: (530) 527-7882
 Fax: (530) 527-6028

645 Antelope Blvd., Suite 17
 Red Bluff, California 96080

C - 0 2 9 7 4 8

C-029748



**Tulare County
Farm Bureau**

737 North Ben Maddox Way
P. O. Box 748 • Visalia, CA 93279-0748
(559) 732-8301 • FAX: (559) 732-7029
e-mail: tulcofb@highspeed.net

Martin Jefferson & Sons
94-2109168
299 Neponset Road
Salinas, CA 93908
831-422-8031

RECEIVED
AUG 21 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 18, 2000

RECEIVED
AUG 21 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr. Steve Ritchie
Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Tulare County Farm Bureau is a private non-profit organization representing over 3,000 members. This organization works to find solutions facing problems of the farm, the farm family and the rural community.

The Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program released its final environmental impact report on July 21, 2000, giving people only until August 21, 2000 to comment on it—in writing. We feel that a 30-day comment period to digest over 6,000 pages is not sufficient time. We urge you to extend the period to review the lengthy document. The report is long, complicated and technical.

We urge you to reconsider holding public hearings to explain what the effects of this plan will have on our agriculture community, and others as well. Many changes were made to the report. The public needs to have an opportunity to understand, digest and discuss this complex document.

It is our opinion that Cal-Fed needs to move more quickly to develop surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs. Drought always takes a serious toll on California's environment and economy. Without new storage and additional yield, we will continue to have disastrous years ahead.

Sincerely,

Kerry Whitson
President

KW/el

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Final Programmatic EIR/EIS

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am writing to you today as a concerned farmer and Past President of the Monterey County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. I am extremely concerned about how the Cal-Fed programs will impact the environment of our state's farms and ranches. The agricultural industry is the number one economic engine in our county and in our state, and we are a vital part of the environment of California. The proposed conversion of over a quarter million acres of farmland into habitat and other uses, without an analysis of the impacts of that type of land conversion is unconscionable! Your Cal-Fed program must seek ways to avoid this type of whole scale removal of California farmland from production!

As a fifth generation California farmer myself, the Cal-Fed proposal is not only logistically unrealistic, but blatantly offensive to my family, who have a long history of being active participants in our strong agricultural economy. Farmers and ranchers in our state are the premier stewards of our land, as it is our heritage and our legacy to the future. Without the positive contribution of our state's farmers and ranchers the entire state and its citizens will suffer an irrevocable loss. California agriculture needs a stable and affordable supply of water to maintain and increase our efficiency and productivity; but we must all work together to develop new water storage capacity within the state to deal with our long-range needs. Your plan as proposed would take away precious water from our state's farmers and ranchers in drought years, which would negatively impact not only agriculture, but also the habitat and the state's economy as well as that of the global consumers our agriculture also serves.

Cal-Fed needs to hold more public hearings to explain it's proposals, before they become final, and in these meetings explain to every citizen in the state how your plans will affect the people. As productive agricultural business representatives of California, we demand an opportunity to adequately review and comment on your proposals!

Sincerely,

Benny Jefferson

OUR MISSION: To promote and enhance the viability of Tulare County agriculture

August 16, 2000

RECEIVED
AUG 21 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

Agriculture is one of California's most important activities. The feeding, clothing and improving the well being of the people of California, as well as the people of the world, is the result of farming in the state. Cal-Fed must give significant attention to the water needs of this industry.

The ability of Agriculture to supply the needs of the people and provide economical enrichment to California is being threatened by the loss of farmland, unreliable water supply and other conditions. The Cal-Fed plan will add to the problem by causing the loss of about 250,000 acres of farmland.

Agricultural land taken out of production may be developed in to other uses that result in the permanent loss of habitat. Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. It is important that there is adequate and affordable water available for farming and habitats. New and improved water storage facilities should be considered to provide water during dry years to all users.

I believe that Cal-Fed should explain it's plan before it becomes final. How has the plan changed and how will it affect the people of California? The people should be allowed to review the final plan and have their input.

Sincerely,

Clifford Prather

Case van Steyn
11823 Carroll Road
Elk Grove, CA 95758

RECEIVED
AUG 21 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 16, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a Sacramento County dairy farmer, I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request you give us more time to review and comment on your document. It is much too large to digest and much too complex to understand. I also request you hold hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers.

Water for farms is used to grow plants. Those plants give off oxygen and help clean the air. Farming provides wildlife habitat while producing food. I continue to pay taxes on that land and survive on the income. This farmland has been in my family for generations. It is sustainable. I am not destroying the environment; I am helping to preserve it.

Do we really want to lose thousands of acres of farmland in California and lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants? Right now, the government owns about half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private land. Why do you think that is?

I have an answer. The animals like what we are doing. Our land and water is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land properly.

Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Sacramento County Supervisors
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Patrick Johnston
Rep. Richard Pombo Assembly Member Helen Thompson

301 S EARLHAM ST
ORANGE, CA 92669

Doug Priest
P.O. Box 265
Yolo, CA 95697

RECEIVED
AUG 21 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Jeff Shimada
520 Buena Tierra Drive
Woodland, CA 95695

RECEIVED
AUG 21 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 11, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

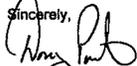
Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a Yolo County farmer I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request you give us more time to review and comment on your document. It is much too large to digest and much too complex to understand. I also request you hold hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers.

Water for farms is used to grow plants. Those plants give off oxygen and help clean the air. Farming provides wildlife habitat while producing food. I continue to pay taxes on that land and survive on the income. This farmland has been in my family for generations. It is sustainable. I am not destroying the environment; I am helping to preserve it.

Do we really want to lose thousands of acres of farmland in California and lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants? Right now, the government owns about half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private land. Why do you think that is? I have an answer. The animals like what we are doing. Our land and water is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land properly. Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,

Doug Priest

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Doug Ose
Yolo County Board of Supervisors

Governor Gray Davis
State Senator K. Maurice Johannessen
Assembly Member Richard Dickerson
Assembly Member Helen Thomson

August 11, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

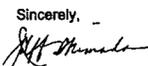
Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a Yolo County farmer I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request you give us more time to review and comment on your document. It is much too large to digest and much too complex to understand. I also request you hold hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers.

Water for farms is used to grow plants. Those plants give off oxygen and help clean the air. Farming provides wildlife habitat while producing food. I continue to pay taxes on that land and survive on the income. This farmland has been in my family for generations. It is sustainable. I am not destroying the environment; I am helping to preserve it.

Do we really want to lose thousands of acres of farmland in California and lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants? Right now, the government owns about half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private land. Why do you think that is? I have an answer. The animals like what we are doing. Our land and water is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land properly. Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,

Jeff Shimada

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Doug Ose
Yolo County Board of Supervisors

Governor Gray Davis
State Senator K. Maurice Johannessen
Assembly Member Richard Dickerson
Assembly Member Helen Thomson



MARIANI ORCHARDS
1615 HALF RD. MORGAN HILL
CALIFORNIA 95037
(408) 779-5467
FRESH AND DRIED FRUITS

RECEIVED
AUG 21 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 16, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am an apricot, cherry and peach grower from the Santa Clara Valley. Our family farms about 70 acres of orchards in Morgan Hill and we receive water for irrigation purposes from the Bureau of Reclamation via the Santa Clara Valley Water District. Although the Cal-Fed plan can seriously affect the availability of our irrigation water, my comments regarding the Cal-Fed plan relate to California's agricultural industry as a whole.

The Cal-Fed plan to convert nearly 250,000 acres of farmland to habitat and other uses is of great concern to me and many of my fellow farmers. A comprehensive study should be initiated to determine the environmental & economic impact of such a land conversion. Cal-Fed must seek ways to avoid converting farmland to other uses. Entire communities and groups of farm workers could be negatively affected by the Cal-Fed program.

I believe that in trying to protect the environment, the Cal-Fed plan could actually harm the environment. Many species of wildlife currently occupy the farmland. Cal-Fed proposes to take out of production agriculture. This wildlife is present because of the habitat provided by farmers and ranchers. Historically, the government has not done a good job of protecting and repopulating these species. Cooperative arrangements with landowners have worked better.

Farmers & Ranchers can run wildlife-friendly, productive operations only if they have an adequate, reliable, and affordable water supply. Farmland will lose its value both as habitat and as a vital food resource for California's growing population.

Government already owns fifty percent of California's one hundred million acres. I believe the Cal-Fed plan should conduct its habitat-restoration work on existing government-owned land instead of converting even more private land to government ownership. California farmland is a natural resource of global importance and needs to remain in agricultural production.

As a farmer, I recognize and support the need to use water more efficiently and have installed, at great capital expense, a micro sprinkler irrigation system on our family's 70 acre orchard operation. California farmers as a whole have increased agricultural production by two-thirds since 1967, while using less water. Farmers generally don't need additional new water. But farmers recognize that the need to insure that there is enough water to satisfy Cal-Fed's environmental goals, especially in dry years will seriously impact the availability of water to California's farmers and ranchers. It is my feeling the only way to guarantee adequate water supplies for all uses, especially during droughts, is to capture more water during wet winters especially in above ground reservoirs. Farmers know the priorities for water are for environmental and urban uses. In years of water shortages farmers, farm workers and many small communities will suffer as a result of lost water supplies.

Last year at the sixteen Cal-Fed hearings held around the state 800 farmers, ranchers and their families and neighbors testified on behalf of California agriculture. These people are stewards of the environment, managing land and water that produces food, wildlife and oxygen. It is a great disappointment to me that Cal-Fed and its agencies have turned a deaf ear to the concerns of these California citizens.

Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review and comment upon it. It is too encompassing a plan to rush to implementation. For this reason, Cal-Fed should extend the comment period on the final EIS/EIR and also hold public hearings to explain what the plan actually does and how it will affect the people of California.

Sincerely,


Mitchell Mariani

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren
Governor Gray Davis
State Sen. Bruce McPherson
Assemblyman Peter Frusetta
Santa Clara County Supervisor Don Gage
Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors

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C-029750

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AUG 24 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

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AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 18, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA
Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

Farmers can't provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review and respond to the plan.

Sincerely,
~~Kristie Tierce~~
Kristie Tierce

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Senator Wesley Chesbro
Representative Mike Thompson Assembly Member Virginia Strom-Martin

August 14, 2000

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a rancher in Tehama County and I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

Cal Fed needs to move quickly to develop surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs. Water conservation cannot make the strides it has made in the past. We will work to become more efficient, but drought will take a serious toll on California's environment and economy unless new storage with additional yield comes on line soon.

Sincerely,
Gerald Engler

Gerald Engler
21700 SPRINGFIELD Rd
SONOMA, CA 95374

RECEIVED

AUG 24 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 14, 2000 RECEIVED

AUG 24 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie,
It is to request an extension of time for comment on the final environmental report released July 21. Cal Fed must hold public hearings to assist those who will be impacted by it can understand it.

In spite of the fact that this plan will impact a quarter of a million acres of our land we hear of no plan to put this lost production back in place. This plan will add to the thousands of acres of farmland already being lost to other non-productive uses.

Yours truly,
O.J. Rosasco

O.J. ROSASCO
15550 Hwy 108
Jamestown, Ca. 95327

8/14/2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca. - 95814

RECEIVED

AUG 24 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a rancher in Tehama County and I am asking you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released 7/21/00. It is not realistic to expect anyone to digest a 6,500 page document in such a short time. If you please & paid staff to put it together. We need, also, public hearings on the plan, so we know how we are affected.

What does being in a production area mean & how does it affect us therein?

Sincerely,
T.J. Whirell
P.O. Box 1014
SONOMA, CA. - 95370

cc: Register Farmington Register Paper, Rep. Doolittle, Gov. Davis

RECEIVED

AUG 24 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

LARRY A. GILBERT
945 East Worthington Road
IMPERIAL, CA 92251-9764

August 20, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am concerned that Cal-Fed's proposed program to divert water away from agriculture will not only reduce agricultural production and adversely affect the economy, but will also result in a net loss to the environment.

Water is used by cultivated plants to produce food and fiber, stimulate our economy, clean our atmosphere and enhance its oxygen content, and provide food and enhanced habitat for many species of birds and terrestrial animals (including game species). The channels and reservoirs conveying water to farms provide additional acres of water habitat for a wide variety of fish and other aquatic life, including birds. Agriculture areas include nutrient-rich habitats that range from arid to wetlands, from open to tree-covered, and from open space to urban.

Removing nearly a quarter million acres from agricultural uses can become part of a misguided trend toward converting habitat-rich farmland back into a comparative environmental wasteland, with only minor benefits to a few in-stream species. This would be a great tragedy.

No agricultural land should be retired from production without a thorough, comprehensive study which includes an analysis of the environmental benefits that would be lost by eliminating the agricultural use of the water.

Consider the Imperial-Coachella Valleys, where I farm. Water is diverted thru hundreds of miles of new waterways and tremendously enhances the environmental productivity of nearly a million acres into a species-rich environmental wonderland. Results include the production of more than a billion dollars worth of food and fiber products, a home for about 400 species of birds (a bird watchers' and hunters' paradise), and the most productive fishery in California.

California farms are capital intensive. They must have a reliable water supply to justify the large investments that make their efficiency the envy of the world. California needs a more reliable water supply for its farms, not more uncertainty about water rights and supply.

Cal-Fed is proposing a drastic move. Such a change must not be made unless and until a comprehensive and full analysis of anticipated results has been completed and fully disclosed to the public. Then a full opportunity for public review and time to comment must be provided.

Sincerely,

Larry A Gilbert

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Senator Dave Kelley
Rep. Duncan Hunter Assemblyman Jim Battin
I. C. Supervisor Dean Shores

Leticia Beeman
17151 Nelson Rd.
Jamuzon CA 95327

RECEIVED

AUG 24 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 14, 2000

RE: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

DEAR MR RITCHIE:

As a rancher from Tuolumne County, I am writing you to request you to extend the comment period on the final environmental report which was released July 21. It is not realistic to ask anyone to read a review of a 500 page document in such a limited time frame.

In addition, there should be public hearings on the plan, so that we who are affected by it can understand how we fit in the plan.

The Solution Area for the Cal Fed plans includes most of California's land. Cal Fed needs to provide residents & landowners with a better description of what that means. Does it mean they may be asked to give up 'And out' water as part of the essential solution.

Sincerely, Leticia Beeman

Stan Kellogg
P.O. Box 910
Tuolumne CA 95378

RECEIVED

AUG 24 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 13, 2000

Mr Steve Ritchie,

I am a rancher in Tuolumne County and I am writing to ask that you extend the time to read and comment on the final EIR released on July 21 regarding CAL Fed. I believe that there should be hearings on the plan so we can understand how the plan will actually work and how it fits into it.

Cal-Fed must address more adequately surface water storage to accommodate all concerned. I (we) are willing to work with and help those concerned but they cannot take the full brunt of the program.

Sincerely
Stan Kellogg

C - 0 2 9 7 5 2

C-029752

21807 Joyce Ct
Sonoma, CA 95370

RECEIVED

AUG 24 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 14, 2000

RE: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Could you please extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report made available July 21st. This is a huge report that will take time to adequately review and comment. I hope that you could get several hearings on the plan so that Cal-Fed can explain it to those who must abide by it.

There is a major component missing. That is how is this plan going to address the loss of farmland in California and how will we replace to level of farmland that was once produced on it.

Sincerely,

Ernie Robinson

Ernie Robinson

16500 Street out of Rd.
Sonoma, Calif. 94922

August 14, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director

Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so that we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

The Cal-Fed plan acknowledges it will have an "irreversible and irretrievable" impact on almost a quarter-of-a-million acres of California farmland. Yet Cal-Fed offers no plan to replace this lost land, simply referring to farmland losses as "unavoidable." The plan needs to look for ways to minimize the loss of farmland.

Sincerely,
Ben H. M. Mac

Ben H. M. Mac

RECEIVED

AUG 24 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Halbert Charter
P.O. Box 1249
Arbuckle, CA 95912

August 21, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

I am a third generation almond farmer in Colusa County. Our family operation farms over 1,500 acres of almonds. We consider ourselves good stewards of the land and are ever concerned about environmental impacts. Cal-Fed should conduct habitat-restoration work on existing government-owned land before it begins acquiring more land.

The government already owns half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife exists on privately owned land. We have done a better job of maintaining habitat than has the government. We take serious our roles of stewards of the environment and wish to be partners with the government. Cal-Fed should encourage landowners to enhance voluntary habitat-conservation efforts.

Cal-Fed needs to move more quickly to develop surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs. Water conservation cannot make the same strides it has made in the past. We will work to become more efficient, but drought will take a serious toll on California's environment and economy unless new storage with additional yield comes on line soon.

Sincerely,

Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Doug Cise

Governor Gray Davis
State Sen. Maurice Johannessen
Assembly Member Dick Dickerson

RECEIVED

AUG 24 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

P.O. Box 77
Sonoma, CA 95370

8/14/2000

Dear MR. Ritchie:

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so that we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not give enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Sincerely,
Joe Pimentel

JOE Pimentel

Donna L. Furlong
P.O. Box 564
Valley Ford, CA 94972-0564
(707) 782-9582

August 14, 2000

RECEIVED

AUG 24 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr Steve Ritchie, Active Executive Director
CAL-FED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM
1416 NINTH STREET SUITE 1155
RE: FINAL PROGRAMMATIC EIS/EIR

August 14, 2000

RECEIVED

AUG 24 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr. Steve Ritchie
Acting Executive Director
Cal Fed Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal Fed plans to convert nearly a quarter of a million acres of farmland to habitat and other uses. The environmental impact of that conversion should be thoroughly studied. Cal Fed should also study the impact of taking that much farmland out of production. People should count too. How many hungry mouths would that feed?

To maintain productive and wildlife-friendly farms, farmers need reliable and affordable water. Cal Fed should be moving more aggressively toward developing new water storage that provides adequate yield. Without adequate storage, water will be taken from farms for the homes of California's growing population. That growing population also needs to eat.

Cal Fed should hold public hearings so citizens have an opportunity to comment and to understand how it will affect people.

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I AM ASKING YOU TO EXTEND THE TIME TO READ AND COMMENT ON THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT RELEASED JULY 26. IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR YOU, CAL-FED, TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE PLAN, ALSO, SO THOSE OF US WHOM IT AFFECTS, WILL UNDERSTAND HOW WE FIT IN.

THE PLAN SAYS IT WILL BE "IRREVERSIBLE AND INTRACTABLE" IMPACT ON APPROX 4 QUARTER-MILLION ACRES OF CALIFORNIA FARMLAND. WHERE IS THE REPLACEMENT LAND COMING FROM?

Sincerely,
William Kaiser
P.O. Box 612
Jamestown, Calif.
95327

Sincerely,

Donna L. Furlong

Donna L. Furlong
President, Marin County Farm Bureau

John Vislizenzon
PO Box 1700
Jamestown Ca 95327

8/14/2000

At Steve Ritchie

Re Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

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AUG 24 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Dear Mr. Ritchie

I am a rancher and businessman in Tuolumne County. I have taken an active role in commenting on Cal Fed issues. I am asking that you extend the time to read and comment on the final EIR, released July 21. I also believe another set of public hearings is in order so we who must abide by it can understand how we the people fit into the plan.

Cal Fed need to move quickly and sincerely to develop surface water storage to address the needs of the people. Water conservation cannot make the same strides it has made in the past.

Sincerely,
John Vislizenzon

John Vislizenzon

Rose Engler
21700 Springfield Rd
Amora, Ca 95370

August 14, 2000

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a rancher in Tuolumne County, I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. It is not realistic to expect anyone to digest a 6500 page document in such a limited amount of time.

In addition there should be public hearings on the plan, so that we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

The solution area for the Cal Fed plan includes most of California's land area. Cal Fed needs to provide standards and landowner use the solution area with a better description of what that means. How being in the solution area mean landowner will face additional regulation from Cal Fed? How it mean they may be asked to give up land and water as part of the eventual solution?

Sincerely,
Rose Engler

Rose Engler

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AUG 24 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

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AUG 28 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program



BUCHER FARMS

August 16, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

As a Sonoma County dairy farmer and grape grower, I am very concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR. Please allow my family and I more time to review and comment. I would also like to request Cal-Fed hold public hearings regarding the plan so we may better understand how our farming operation will be affected by it.

As I understand the EIS/EIR, one million acres in California will be taken for the preservation of the environment. What if thousands of those acres are the alfalfa fields from which much of our feed comes? What if acreage is taken that includes water storage that many farmers depend upon? What would happen to the wildlife we currently have and enjoy on our ranch?

We are proud of the fact that we are good stewards of the land and practice environmentally sound farming techniques. We plan to pass on our farming operation, land and it's environmental responsibilities to the fifth generation of Buchers. I know this land will be well maintained for many, many years to come. Please, don't take it from us.

Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,

Tory Bucher
Bucher Farms

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Wesley Chesbro
Rep. Mike Thompson Assembly Member Virginia Strom-Martin
County Sup. Mike Reilly

5285 Westside Road • Healdsburg, CA 95448 • (707) 433-2916 • Fax (707) 433-0281

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AUG 28 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program



BUCHER FARMS

August 16, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final EIS/EIR

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Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,

Joe Bucher
Bucher Farms

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Wesley Chesbro
Rep. Mike Thompson Assembly Member Virginia Strom-Martin
County Sup. Mike Reilly

5285 Westside Road • Healdsburg, CA 95448 • (707) 433-2916 • Fax (707) 433-0281

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program



BUCHER FARMS

August 16, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,

Annemarie Bucher
Bucher Farms

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Wesley Chesbro
Rep. Mike Thompson Assembly Member Virginia Strom-Martin
County Sup. Mike Reilly

5285 Westside Road • Healdsburg, CA 95448 • (707) 433-2916 • Fax (707) 433-0281

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AUG 28 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program



BUCHER FARMS

August 16, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final EIS/EIR

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Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,

John Bucher
Bucher Farms

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Wesley Chesbro
Rep. Mike Thompson Assembly Member Virginia Strom-Martin
County Sup. Mike Reilly

5285 Westside Road • Healdsburg, CA 95448 • (707) 433-2916 • Fax (707) 433-0281

C - 0 2 9 7 5 5

C-029755

August 17, 2000
Midge Swickard
490-425 Highway 139
Susanville, Ca. 96130

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AUG 28 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program



Lassen County Farm Bureau

P.O. BOX 151 • SUSANVILLE, CA 96130
TELEPHONE & FAX (530) 257-7242

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AUG 28 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Steve Ritchie
Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie and Cal-Fed Members,

This letter shall serve as my comments on your final environmental report released on July 21, 2000. Initially, I am quite disturbed and discouraged with your exceedingly short timeline of 30 days to submit comments on the thousands of pages of the report and with your refusal to hold any further public hearings on the plan. For an organization that was premised on consensus building to solve the Bay-Delta's water plans, your methodology seems to indicate a preconceived bureaucratic agenda attempting to make an end run around public input from notice and comment procedures.

The current Cal-Fed plan will remove nearly a quarter of a million acres from agricultural production. This is termed "unavoidable" in the report. Nothing is "unavoidable" unless the problem is approached with an initial set of predetermined assumptions. The error in your predetermined assumptions is that the removal of this acreage from irrigation and cultivation will have no deleterious effects on the environment and will improve the Bay-Delta Estuary.

Farmland is important and often essential wildlife habitat for waterfowl, a variety of mammals and the prey animals that feed on them. The removal of this land from production will have a devastating effect on overall wildlife numbers and a minimal positive effect on the Bay-Delta. Farmers cannot run productive wildlife-friendly farms unless they have reliable and affordable water. Removal of this water will convert thousands of acres of the Central Valley into desert wasteland drastically affecting air quality and destroying a significant habitat for California's wildlife.

The alternatives that Cal-Fed needs to explore further are (1) longer public comment period and public hearings on final report; (2) immediate planning of reservoir storage sites for environmental and urban water storage to eliminate Ag water reductions; (3) expend public funds for existing government land wildlife habitat development rather than further purchases of private land by state and federal government entities; and (4) economic incentives to private landowners to develop wildlife habitat to exist concurrent with irrigated agriculture.

The above alternatives should be prioritized above other Cal-Fed programs. Taking water away from agriculture to service "environmental" concerns is shortsighted, unnecessary and will actually damage overall wildlife habitat in California. Please do not allow this type of thinking to prevail in the Cal Fed Process.

Sincerely Yours,

Midge Swickard

August 22, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Lassen County Farm Bureau feels strongly that Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way, the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

But farmers can't provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

Lassen County Farm Bureau would encourage Cal-Fed to hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

Steve Fortin
Steve Fortin, President
Lassen County Farm Bureau

SF: sm

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Wally Herger

Governor Gray Davis
State Senator Tim Leslie
Assemblyman Sam Anestad

Lassen
County
Supervisors

Aug 17, 2000

Megan Taylor
15330 W Stanislaus
Kerman Ca 93630

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AUG 25 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Sincerely,

Megan Taylor

CC:

Senator Diane Feinstein - Gov. Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer - State Senator Costa
Rep. Cal Dooley
Rep. Goo Radovich
State Senator Ch. Boehman
Assembly Storey
County Supervisors
Assembly Sarah Reyes
Assembly Mike Briggs

Mr. Steve Ritchie,
Acting Executive Director
1416 Ninth Street
Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion.

The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

C - 0 2 9 7 5 6

C-029756



DEMLER EGG RANCH

1455 N. Warren Rd.
San Jacinto, California 92582
(909) 654-8168
FAX (909) 487-9766

August 16, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CAL-FED BAY DELTA PROGRAM
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a Riverside County poultryman, I am very concerned with the Cal Fed EIS/EIR released July 21, 2000. Our family has been in the egg business for over 50 years. We currently have ranches in Kern, San Diego and Riverside counties. Water is one of our most important commodities. We are not farmers, but need water just as much. With over 3.5 million chickens in the family, our need for water - especially in the summer- is tremendous.

I strongly urge you to extend the deadline. We need to hold public hearings where Cal-Fed can explain its plan before it becomes final. It should not be finalized until we have had adequate time to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

John E. Demler
DEMLER EGG RANCH

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer, Representative Mary Bono, Governor Gray Davis, Assemblyman Jim Battin, State Senator Jim Brulte



Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc. CALFED Bay-Delta Program

21160 Box Springs Road, Suite 102, Moreno Valley, California 92557, USA
Telephone 909/884-6732 - E-mail President@RiversideCFB.com - FAX 909/782-0821
Visit our Internet site at www.RiversideCFB.com
Affiliated with the California Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm Bureau Federation

August 21, 2000
Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

California farmland is a valuable environmental resource. Where the Cal-Fed plan will take nearly 250,000 acres out of production, it will have a significant environmental impact. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to this problem, and its plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

As a county Farm Bureau manager, I represent farmers and ranchers throughout a Southern California county. Many of these farmers and ranchers are directly dependent on State Water Project water. The remaining farmers and ranchers are certainly affected by the competing demands for water and are indirectly affected by Bay-Delta decisions. They share concerns of farmers and ranchers throughout the state that the loss of farmland under the Cal-Fed plan will have widespread adverse effects on agricultural productivity. They also worry that the emphasis on reducing agriculture indicates that Cal-Fed fails to recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. As a representative of these farmers and ranchers, I am obligated to express their - and my - concerns that the Cal-Fed plan as now presented is flawed and needs additional citizen input and improvements.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way, the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time. But farmers can't provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water.

It is absolutely essential that Cal-Fed develop water storage with

- Board of Directors
 - President: Andy Deming
 - Vice President: Steve Paster
 - Ch. Deming: John Demler
 - First President: Stephen J. Conner
 - Lee Anderson, Jr.
 - Leslie Anderson
 - Chris Armstrong
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 - Mark Draper
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 - Charles Johnson
 - Robert Kaylor
 - Nancy Racco
 - Richard Schmidt
 - Beal Scott
 - Bruce Scott
 - Ed Steinhilber
- Treasurer: Anton Betsworth
- Staff
 - Executive Manager / Secretary: Robert Ed Perkins
 - Office Manager: Stephanie Bell
- Consultant:
 - Lynnette Dwyer
 - Dennis Hollingsworth
- Serving Riverside County Agriculture Since 1917

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AUG 25 2000

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AUG 14 2000

August 12, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

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AUG 25 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way, the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

But farmers can't provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

John S. Fricker
Water Advisor Riverside County Farm Bureau
27747 Lake St.
Hemet, CA 92544

adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms. A shortage in any part of the farm economy affects all farmers and ranchers in California.

Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. The Cal-Fed plan should not be finalized until California's citizens have an adequate opportunity to review and comment on it. I believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Perkins
Executive Manager
Secretary

cc:

Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Mary Bono
Representative Ken Calvert
Representative Ron Packard
Governor Gray Davis
State Senator Jim Brulte
State Senator Ray Haynes
State Senator David Kelley
Assembly Member Jim Battin
Assembly Member Brett Granlund
Assembly Member Rod Pacheco
Assembly Member Bruce Thompson
Riverside County Supervisors

Cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Supervisor Jim
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Ray Haynes Venable
Rep. Mary Bono Assembly Member Bruce Thompson

RECEIVED

AUG 25 2000

Hollendale Dairy
5829 River Road
Oakdale, CA 95361

August 23, 2000

RE: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr. Ritchie
Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Cal-Fed must recognize the importance of working with farmers on a voluntary habitat conservation basis. That way, the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

The simple fact is that farmers can't provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms. There must be long range planning to provide for our future.

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

Peter Orradre

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. George Radanovich
Rep. Gary A. Condit
State Senator Jim Costa
Governor Gray Davis
State Senator Richard Monteith
Assembly Member George House
Assembly Member Dean Florcz
Madera County Supervisors

August 9, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

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I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

Pete Dykzeul

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Dick Monteith Rep. Gary Condit
Assembly Member George House
Stanislaus County Supervisors

COPY



RONALD MARTELLA FARMS, INC.

920 Charles Road, Hughson, California 95326
Phone: (209) 883-4819 • Fax: (209) 883-0819
FED ID #94-2385194

August 9, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a Stanislaus County farmer. I am a third generation farmer on this land. I am concerned about the future. I ask that you:

1. Give us more time to review and comment on the final Cal-Fed environmental report released July 21. I work more than 60 hours a week on my operation and there is not enough time to review the plan.
2. Please hold public hearings to explain this plan to us. The report is long, complicated and technical.

I am concerned about this document, as I understand it so far. I have lots of wildlife and habitat on my operation. I know that other farmers do, too. If Cal-Fed acquires several hundred thousand acres of land as planned, it will be detrimental to habitat.

I do not believe that Cal-Fed adequately studied the effects of such a large-scale land conversion. I do not believe Cal-Fed tried hard enough to minimize farmland losses.

Sincerely,

Kevin Chiesa

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Dick Monteith Rep. Gary Condit
Assembly Member George House
Stanislaus County Supervisors

Tom Orvis
Star Route Box 360
Farmington, CA 95230



August 9, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a Stanislaus and Calaveras rancher. My family has been on this land for five generations. We are concerned about the future. I ask that you:

1. Give us more time to review and comment on the final Cal-Fed environmental report released July 21. I work more than 60 hours a week on my operation and there is not enough time to review the plan.
2. Please hold public hearings to explain this plan to us. The report is long, complicated and technical.

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Sincerely,

Tom Orvis

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Senator Barbara Boxer
State Sen. Dick Monteith Rep. Gary Condit Assemblyman George House
Stanislaus County Supervisors

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**CENTRAL
EVERGREEN CO.**

GROWER & DISTRIBUTOR OF DECORATIVE GREENS

5713 Shoemaker
Modesto, CA 95358

Stewart Bradley
11124 Walnut Ave.
Oakdale, CA 95361

August 9, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

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Sincerely,

Floyd H. Rydalcik
Floyd H. Rydalcik

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Dick Monteith Rep. Gary Condit
Assembly Member George House
Stanislaus County Supervisors

COPY

5713 Shoemaker Modesto, CA 95358 Office (209) 577-3243 Ranch (209) 523-0261 Fax (209) 549-1451

Cc: Senator Dick Monteith
Senator Patrick Johnson
Assemblyman Mike Machado
Assemblyman Anthony Pescetti
Dennis Cardoza
Governor Gray Davis
Representative Richard Pombo
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer

August 9, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a Stanislaus County farmer, I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request you give us more time to review and comment on your document. It is much too large to digest and much too complex to understand. I also request you hold hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers.

Water for farms is used to grow plants. Those plants give off oxygen and help clean the air. Farming provides wildlife habitat while producing food. I continue to pay taxes on that land and survive on the income. This farmland has been in my family for generations. It is sustainable. I am not destroying the environment; I am helping to preserve it.

Do we really want to lose thousands of acres of farmland in California and lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants? Right now, the government owns about half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private land. Why do you think that is?

I have an answer. The animals like what we are doing. Our land and water is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land properly.

Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,
Stewart Bradley
Stewart Bradley

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Dick Monteith Rep. Gary Condit
Assembly Member George House
Stanislaus County Supervisors

COPY

Chiesa Ranch Inc.

Almond, Walnut and Peach Growers
3607 John Fox Rd.
Hughson CA 95326

Ph # (209)883-2916
Fax # (209)883-9480

August 9, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a Stanislaus County farmer. My family has been on this land for three generations. We are concerned about the future. I ask that you:

1. Give us more time to review and comment on the final Cal-Fed environmental report released July 21. I work more than 50 hours a week on my operation and more during this time of year due to harvest and irrigation and there is not enough time to review the plan.
2. Please hold public hearings to explain this plan to us. The report is long, complicated and technical.

I am concerned about this document, as I understand it so far. I have lots of wildlife and habitat on my operation. I know that other farmers do, too. If Cal-Fed acquires several hundred thousand acres of land as planned, it will be detrimental to habitat.

I do not believe that Cal-Fed adequately studied the effects of such a large-scale land conversion. I do not believe Cal-Fed tried hard enough to minimize farmland losses.

Sincerely,
Vito Chiesa
Vito Chiesa

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Senator Barbara Boxer
State Sen. Dick Monteith Rep. Gary Condit Assemblyman George House
Stanislaus County Supervisors

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