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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

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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 or the Delta.

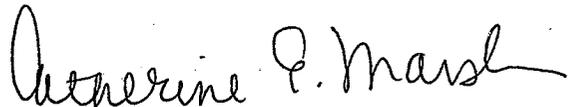
Right now the government owns about half of the land in California. Yet, 75% of the wildlife habitat is on privately owned land. The animals like what we are doing. Our land is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often times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



Catherine E. Marsh

CC: Governor Davis
Diane Feinstein
Barbara Boxer

Doug Ose
Maurice Johannessen
Colusa County Board of Supervisors