Sean Robertson
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RECEIVED
AUG 11 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

8-2-00

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Exec. Dir.
CalFed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Ste 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie;

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.

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. 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.

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.

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