



Siskiyou County Farm Bureau

RECEIVED

AUG 09 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

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.

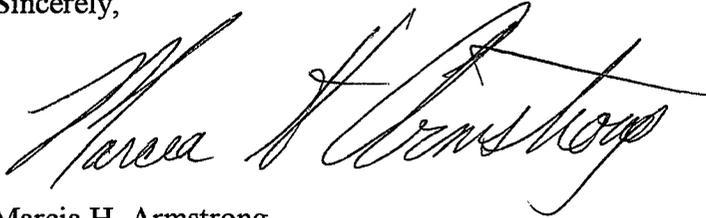
809 FOURTH STREET • YREKA, CALIFORNIA 96097 • E-Mail: sisfarm@snowcrest.net
Phone: (530) 842-2364 <http://www.snowcrest.net/siskfarm/>

C - 1 1 4 0 6 9

C-114069

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marcia H. Armstrong". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

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