



IMPERIAL VALLEY UNITED

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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

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

Community:

- Brawley Chamber of Commerce
- Brawley City Council
- Calxico Chamber of Commerce
- Calxico City Council
- Calipatria City Council
- Coalition of Labor, Agriculture & Business
- El Centro Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau
- El Centro City Council
- El Centro Kiwanis
- El Centro Oddfellows
- Holtville Chamber of Commerce
- Holtville City Council
- Imperial Chamber of Commerce
- Imperial City Council
- Imperial County Board of Supervisors
- Imperial County Farm Bureau
- Imperial Irrigation District
- IID's Community Advisory Council
- Imperial Valley Joint Chambers of Commerce
- Imperial Valley Vegetable Growers
- Westmorland City Council

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
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