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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.

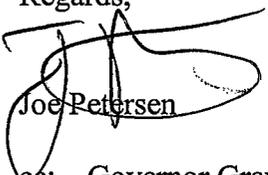
Please extend the period to look through the document and provide comments on the final EIS/EIR release July 21. As a farmer I can't adequately review the thousands of pages in the document in the time allowed.

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,


Joe Petersen

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

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