



SAN JOAQUIN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

MEETING TODAY'S PROBLEMS / PLANNING FOR TOMORROW

RECEIVED

AUG 11 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 9, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CalFed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

The San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation has recently received the 6,500 page Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the CalFed Bay-Delta Program. After an initial review of the document, the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation continues to have extreme concerns about this proposed program.

California will not have enough water for the environment in dry years if this proposed document is adopted. Cal-Fed must move aggressively to develop new water storage that provides adequate yield. Without more storage, water will be taken away from farms, especially during droughts. Without water, farmland will lose its value as habitat and as a vital food resource for California's growing population. If CalFed is going to coordinate a plan to assure reliable, high-quality water for California's people while addressing bay-delta environmental problems, then sufficient time must be taken before this plan is adopted to prove to the entire population of California that this plan will provide a suitable amount of water for everyone.

Unfortunately with a little more than a month to review the document, the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation has spent many hours trying to review the 6,500-page document with gradual success. Since the release of the CalFed plan "Framework for Action" agreement in June 2000, it has been very difficult understand how exactly how CalFed will affect San Joaquin County Agriculture. The framework does not appear to be a reflection of the Final EIS/EIR.

Therefore, the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation is requesting additional time to evaluate the new environmental document and believes that CalFed should include the public in its final decision by holding public hearings to explain how the plan has changed and how it will affect California. The San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation urges that the issues raised today need to be addressed before any final decision is filed.

Agriculture is part of California. Again, it is important that we protect our future, our farmers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Loren C. Ohm
President

cc: Bill Pauli, CFBF President
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Richard Pombo
Governor Gray Davis
State Senator Patrick Johnston
State Senator Dick Monteith
Assemblyman Dennis Cardoza
Assemblyman Mike Machado
Assemblyman Anthony Pescetti
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors