



Shasta County Farm Bureau

3605 Bechelli Lane • Redding, CA 96002 • (530) 223-2358 • E-mail: info@shastafarmbureau.com

August 10, 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:

As one of over 1600 members of Shasta County Farm Bureau, I feel I must comment on your recently released EIS/EIR regarding the Cal-Fed proposal. I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the lengthy final environmental report released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

Cal-Fed should help conduct habitat-restoration work on existing government-owned land before it begins acquiring more land. The government already owns half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife exists on privately owned land. We, as farmers, have done a better job of maintaining habitat than has the government. We take seriously our roles of stewards of the environment and wish to be partners with the government. Cal-Fed should encourage landowners to enhance voluntary habitat-conservation efforts than set aside their own conservation methods, rather than taking matters into their own hands.

Efforts need to be more focused towards developing surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs of California. We are always working to become more efficient, but drought will take a serious toll on California's environment and economy unless new storage with additional yield comes on line soon.

Please take into consideration these points that I have addressed when making a decision that will ultimately affect not only California, but the nation as a whole. Take the time to address these issues before you drastically change our environment.

Sincerely,

Tom Loftus

Shasta County Farm Bureau Director

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein	Governor Gray Davis	County Supervisor Hawes
Senator Barbara Boxer	State Sen. Maurice Johannesen	County Supervisor Wilson
Rep. Wally Herger	Assembly Member Dick Dickerson	County Supervisor Clarke
	County Supervisor Kehoe	County Supervisor Fust