



Shasta County Farm Bureau

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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 a member of Shasta County Farm Bureau, which represents over 1600 members, I must comment on the recent release of the final EIS/EIR regarding the Cal-Fed program. Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource within the state. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of valuable production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion, and needs to complete this task before drastically changing California's already sustainable agriculture environment.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation to ensure that the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time. In addition, Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield, as this is the backbone to ensuring the future of both. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

Public hearings need to be held to explain the plans before they become final, as well as telling us how this newly changed plan will affect people. The plan should not be finalized until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and make decisions based upon the facts.

Sincerely,

Richard Taylor

Shasta County Farm Bureau 2nd Vice President

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 Fust	County Supervisor Kehoe