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August 10, 2000

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

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

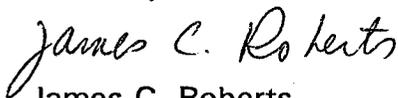
The Environmental Impact Report recently released by Cal-Fed does not adequately recognize the role agriculture has played in providing wildlife habitat. The government already owns half the land in California and yet 75 percent of the wildlife exists on privately owned land. Farmers have done a better job of maintaining habitat than the government. Farmers have long been good stewards of the environment, and we think Cal-Fed should encourage landowners to enhance voluntary habitat conservation efforts.

Please extend the review period for the EIR and schedule more public hearings. This important issue deserves more public input.

Our water storage and supply need to be increased. Agriculture is a vital part of the state's economy. Without water agriculture cannot continue and thereby farmland loses its value as habitat and a vital food resource for a growing population.

I have been farming for over forty years in San Diego County, and our farm has provided natural habitat for a great variety of animals and birds through the years.

Sincerely,



James C. Roberts

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