Jonathan M. Pinkerton
P. O. Box 4099
Ventura, CA 93007

Aug 10, 2000

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland and farm jobs.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers and ranchers on voluntary habitat conservation which would thereby help feed our growing population <u>and</u> provide habitat at the same time.

However, farmers and ranchers can not provide habitat or supply food without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years and therefore, water won't have to be taken away from California's farms.

In the attempt of being "fair" and "democratic", Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to help explain it's plans before they are finalized. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect peoples lives. Cal-Fed →

Should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it. Thankyou.

Sincerely,

Jonathan "Josh" Pinkerton
1st vice-chair Young Farmers & Ranchers program