

# Darling Nursery, Inc.

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**RECEIVED**

**AUG 14 2000**

**CALFED Bay-Delta Program**

August 11, 2000

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

Re: Final Programmic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the 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.

Our family has been farming southern California since 1926. We are currently growing container nursery stock on 350 acres in north San Diego County. We provide for wildlife in our farming operation. Cal-Fed should conduct habitat-restoration work on existing government-owned 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 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.

Cal-Fed needs to move more quickly to develop surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs. Water conservation cannot make the same strides it has made in the past. We will work 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.

Sincerely,



Don Durling

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein      Governor Gray Davis      Assemblyman Bruce Thompson  
    Senator Barbara Boxer      CA Senator Bill Morrow      Supervisor Bill Horn  
    Congressman Ron Packard