



MONTEREY COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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8/11/00

RECEIVED

AUG 14 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

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

Re: Final Programmatic EIR/EIS

Dear Mr. Richie:

The Monterey County Farm Bureau Board of Directors and its members are extremely concerned about how the Cal-Fed programs will impact the environment of our state's farms and ranches. The agricultural industry is the number one economic engine in our county and in our state, and we are a vital part of the environment of California. The proposed conversion of over a quarter million acres of farmland into habitat and other uses, without an analysis of the impacts of that type of land conversion is unconscionable! Your Cal-Fed program must seek ways to avoid this type of whole scale removal of California farmland from production!

As a third generation California farmer, myself the Cal-Fed proposal is not only logistically untenable to me, but arrogantly offensive to my very agricultural roots and the contribution of my parents and grandparents to Monterey County and California agriculture and the overall economy! Farmers and ranchers in our state are the premier stewards of our land, as it is our heritage and our legacy to the future. Our pioneering agricultural spirit must be allowed to continue in the most true sense, by allowing California farmers to have the freedom to innovate and grow our products and business without such invasive plans as your Cal-Fed proposal.

California agriculture needs a stable and affordable supply of water to maintain and increase our efficiency and productivity; but we must all work together to develop new water storage capacity within the state to deal with our long-range needs. Your plan as proposed would take away precious water from our state's farmers and ranchers in drought years, which would negatively impact not only agriculture, but also the habitat and the state's economy as well as that of the global consumers our agriculture also serves.

Cal-Fed needs to hold more public hearing to explain it's proposals, before they become final, and in these meetings explain to every citizen in the state how your plans will affect the people. As productive agricultural business representatives of California, we demand an opportunity to adequately review and comment on your proposals!

Sincerely

Sharan Lanini, Executive Director

Cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein, Governor Gray Davis, Monterey Co. Board of Supervisors,
Senator Barbara Boxer, Senator Bruce McPherson, Assemblyman Fred Keeley,
Congressman Sam Farr, Assemblyman Peter Fursetta