



# Shasta County Farm Bureau

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August 14, 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 high school agriculture instructor, and member of Shasta County Farm Bureau, I must comment on the recent release of the final EIS/EIR regarding the Cal-Fed program. The Cal-Fed plan does not recognize California farmland as the valuable environmental resource within the state that it is. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of valuable agriculture 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. As an agriculture instructor I know too well the importance of land conservation and water use, and I teach this daily to my students. Both are resources that need to be preserved for the years to come.

A solution that I recommend is to hold public hearings 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,

Shanan Lindahl  
Shasta County Farm Bureau member  
Instructor, Anderson Union High School

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|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 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  |

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