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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

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 Glenn County Farmer I am very concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. I respectfully request you give us more time to review and comment on your document. It is much too large to digest and much too complex to understand. I would also like to request you hold hearings to explain what the Cal-Fed program will mean to us.

Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of farmland, loss of water and the lack of progress on storage. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed storage, not from farmers. In the early 1930's and 1940's our Country's leaders understood that water storage (dams) was a necessity to our success and existence of our citizens of the United States. It concerns me that our current leaders do not understand the importance of water storage!

Water for farms is used to grow plants. Those plants give off oxygen and help clean the air. Farming provides wildlife habitat while producing food. I continue to pay taxes on that land and survive on the income. This farmland has been in my family for twenty-eight years with hopes that our children will continue the family tradition. It is sustainable. I am not destroying the environment; I am helping to preserve it and teaching my children the importance of farming, not only for them, but also for our Country.

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Do we really want to lose thousands of acres of farmland in California and lose the habitat it provides for numerous animals and plants? Right now, the government owns about half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife habitat is on private land. Why do you think that is?

I have that answer. The wildlife happens to like what we are doing. We are preserving their habitat. Our land and water is well managed and cared for. When the government decides to buy land because of a particular species, that species often goes elsewhere because the government fails to manage the land properly.

It saddens me to think that our leaders don't understand the importance of our U.S. Farmers and Ranchers. They are willing to preserve endangered species, National Parks, but ignore the families that strive to feed the world. Please listen to our concerns! The implications of this plan not only affect my family, but yours!

Again, I request you grant additional time for comments and hold public hearings before you implement the plan.

Sincerely,



Staci K. Buttermore
Buttermore Ranch Costa Lota

cc: Governor Gray Davis
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
The Honorable Doug Ose
The Honorable Maurice Johannessen
The Honorable Dick Dickerson
Glenn County Board of Supervisors

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