

Water Mountain Ranch Co.

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August 15, 2000

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

RE: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I farm 175 acres of citrus and avocados in San Diego County. I would like to make a few requests.

- 1. Extend the period to review the document and provide comments on the final EIS/EIR released July 21.** There is no way to adequately review the thousands of pages in the document in the time allowed
- 2. Hold public hearings to explain what you plan to do and the effects on us.** Many changes were made to the report, which the public needs to have and opportunity to understand and discuss. I fear that even after we review the document there will be much that we will not understand. I believe that it is the proper thing to tell us how the plan will affect us.

My family has been farming in the same location in San Diego County for three generations. I fear that if changes are not made to the current Cal-Fed plan like including the development of surface water storage, there will be nothing to be passed on to my families fourth generation. Water conservation cannot accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs, there must be development of more water storage.

I believe that in trying to protect the environment, the Cal-Fed plan actually will harm it instead. Taking thousands of acres of land out of production will change the face of California agriculture dramatically. It will have a huge impact on the environment, not to mention local economies. The government already owns half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife exists on privately owned land. Farmers and ranchers have done a better job of maintaining habitat than has the government. We take seriously our roles of stewards of the environment. Cal-Fed should encourage landowners to enhance voluntary habitat-conservation efforts.

The Cal-Fed plan is flawed. I am disappointed that Cal-Fed and its agencies have turned a deaf ear to the more than 1,000 representatives of agriculture who attended your 16 hearings last year. Of the 800 people who spoke, most were farmers and ranchers and their families and neighbors. These people are stewards of the environment, managing land and water that produces food, wildlife, and oxygen.

Sincerely,



Craig K. Anderson

Cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Supervisor Horn
Senator Barbara Boxer