



BUCHER FARMS

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AUG 28 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 16, 2000

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

Re: Final EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

As a Sonoma County dairy farmer and grape grower, I am very concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR. Please allow my family and I more time to review and comment. I would also like to request Cal-Fed hold public hearings regarding the plan so we may better understand how our farming operation will be affected by it.

As I understand the EIS/EIR, one million acres in California will be taken for the preservation of the environment. What if thousands of those acres are the alfalfa fields from which much of our feed comes? What if acreage is taken that includes water storage that many farmers depend upon? What would happen to the wildlife we currently have and enjoy on our ranch?

We are proud of the fact that we are good stewards of the land and practice environmentally sound farming techniques. We plan to pass on our farming operation, land and it's environmental responsibilities to the fifth generation of Buchers. I know this land will be well maintained for many, many years to come. Please, don't take it from us.

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

Sincerely,

Joe Bucher
Bucher Farms

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis
 Senator Barbara Boxer State Sen. Wesley Chesbro
 Rep. Mike Thompson Assembly Member Virginia Strom-Martin
 County Sup. Mike Reilly

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