



Shasta County Farm Bureau

3605 Bechelli Lane • Redding, CA 96002 • (530) 223-2358 • E-mail: info@shastafarmbureau.com

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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 Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a member of Shasta County Farm Bureau, which represents over 1600 members, I must comment on the recent release of the final EIS/EIR regarding the Cal-Fed program. Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource within the state. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of valuable production. Enough thought has not been given to the environmental impact of this land conversion, and needs to be done 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.

Public hearings need to be held 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,

Patrick Fields
Shasta County Farm Bureau Director

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein	Governor Gray Davis	County Supervisor Hawes
Senator Barbara Boxer	State Sen. Maurice Johannessen	County Supervisor Wilson
Rep. Wally Herger	Assembly Member Dick Dickerson	County Supervisor Clarke
	County Supervisor Fust	County Supervisor Kehoe