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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:

I am a farmer in Butte County and my family has been in farming for five generations that I can trace. I write to you today to express my concern over the just released Cal-Fed environmental report. My concern centers not only around the loss of land, but loss of life.

I have worked diligently to provide my family with the same way of life that I was fortunate enough to have experienced. I am educated, I am industrious and I enjoy my life, not livelihood, LIFE. I take my task as a steward of the environment seriously and continuously. No one knows better than a farmer the economic benefit of harmony between their farm and the environment.

That said, I take particular exception with the basic premise that loss of farm land will be "irreversible and irretrievable" or that said loss will be "unavoidable". Why, is it unavoidable? Sir, you and the juggernaut bureaucracy that you are the head of, are the very people that can avoid this catastrophe.

Hundreds, if not thousands, of farmers have spoken out against just this sort of result. Our illustrations and examples of the dependence of society and the environment on a healthy farm economy have apparently fallen on deaf ears. I can't help but think that some of us in agriculture have figuratively been given a thirty day eviction notice on a way of life.

Mr. Ritchie, I implore you to hold public hearings and extend the comment period on the implementation of this plan. It has taken a long time to come this far it would be a shame to enact a plan that is substandard. Together, we must get it right the first time.

Sincerely,

Stacy J. Gore
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