

August 16, 2000

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

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,

Agriculture is one of California's most important activities. The feeding, clothing and improving the well being of the people of California, as well as the people of the world, is the result of farming in the state. Cal-Fed must give significant attention to the water needs of this industry.

The ability of Agriculture to supply the needs of the people and provide economical enrichment to California is being threatened by the loss of farmland, unreliable water supply and other conditions. The Cal-Fed plan will add to the problem by causing the loss of about 250,000 acres of farmland.

Agricultural land taken out of production may be developed in to other uses that result in the permanent loss of habitat. Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. It is important that there is adequate and affordable water available for farming and habitats. New and improved water storage facilities should be considered to provide water during dry years to all users.

I believe that Cal-Fed should explain it's plan before it becomes final. How has the plan changed and how will it affect the people of California? The people should be allowed to review the final plan and have their input.

Sincerely,



Clifford Prather

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ORANGE, CA. 92869

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