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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

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August 16, 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

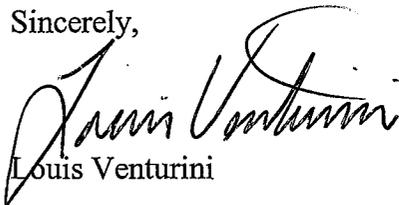
Dear Mr. Ritchie;

As a livestock producer, I operate in several northern California counties and utilize several different sources of water for irrigation in my operation, from groundwater and local irrigation districts, to several licensed diversions. I am concerned with the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21, 2000. Even though it would affect water supplies and land use throughout much of California, the Cal-Fed Bay-Delta program wants to finalize its plan without more public hearings. Cal-Fed released its final environmental report, making little effort to let people comment on it. Through this entire process, I have been concerned about the loss of productive farmland and ranches, loss of water, and the lack of progress on water storage facilities. As California's population continues to grow and the environment continues to require more water, that water should come from newly developed water storage facilities, and conservation from both the urban and industrial sectors, not just from farmers and ranchers.

In addition, I do not believe Cal-Fed has adequately studied the effects of such large-scale, productive farm and ranch land conversion to riparian and wildlife habitat. I do not believe Cal-Fed has tried hard enough to minimize productive farm and ranch land losses. Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people, and should not finalize its plan until citizens have had adequate opportunity to review and comment upon it.

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

Sincerely,



Louis Venturini

LV/lv

Cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Wally Herger

Governor Gray Davis
State Senator K. Maurice Johannessen
Assembly Member Sam Aanestad

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