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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 17, 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 concerned about Cal-Fed's plan to idle 250,000 acres of farmland for habitat development and "other uses". Cal-Fed's plan ignores the fact that cultivated farmland provides wildlife habitat and that "other uses" very often damage it.

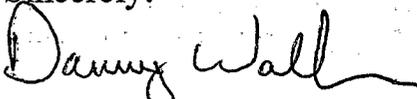
Here in the Imperial Valley we enjoy a very diverse population of birds whose habitat is the cultivated farmland and associated waterways. There is only one other location in the United States that has a larger, more diverse population of birds. This provides an example of the value of farmland in creating wildlife habitat.

Imperial Valley farmland will not be impacted by Cal-Fed's immediate plans, but I am very concerned about the precedent that idling farmland would set.

Idling 250,000 acres of farmland should free up at least 1 million acre feet of water. How much of this water will be used for new urban development that will most certainly damage wildlife habitat?

Cal-Fed should do further research into the value of farmland for wildlife habitat. No plan should be finalized until this has been done and the public has had ample opportunity to review and comment.

Sincerely:



Danny Walker