August 17, 2000

Thomas W. Creighton
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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

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

Good day to you! I am writing you in response to the Final Programmatic EIS/EIR. To be honest, I was quite upset that our voice, the voice of agriculture, went either unheard or ignored. It wasn't that you ignored an industry; you ignored people and livelihoods that make it possible for you to eat and get dressed every single day. You ignored my voice Mr. Ritchie, and that will piss a lot of people off - including me. I'm tired of the politics and bull shit that farmers have been put through.

I am a farmer; my family's farm has been in existence for over 130 years. We have battled to keep our land. Environmental agencies and groups have tried to push us out of business many times. Flood zones built by the government have wiped out a whole years crop, but still we survive. Then Cal-Fed dumps a book six inches thick on us and expects us to be satisfied. I am not satisfied, and I am not happy! I believe in honesty Mr. Ritchie. Honesty is the key to happiness and compromise. You need to be honest with me.

A public hearing is needed for you to be honest with us. You need to explain the report and break it down to the point where individuals can grasp what it means to them and all of agriculture. Farmers and others need time to review the report in its entirety. We don't have ample time to review it like others because our occupation isn't measured on a time clock. I know that a public hearing will be greatly appreciated by every California farmer, and those of us with time will be able to iron everything out. We at least need to be honest about what the report means so as to form a solid argument for or against it. Being a man in your position, I know

that you understand the importance of good communication.

Please help us to look before we leap. The future is only what we make it, or it can be as little as we don't want it to be. The future of Cal-Fed's Report was very black. I saw no light and a lot of loss at the end of your tunnel. When you answer to God I hope you are honest with Him about your intentions. I know He wouldn't like to be trampled in this manner. Just be thankful that I am not God because I wouldn't be as forgiving.

Let us hear the truth. Let us share our minds and our opinions. We will be honest and helpful. Without farmers there wouldn't be half of the wildlife there is now. Developing and concrete would have buried us all a long time ago if it weren't for the farmer. We should be your best friends and not at odds with one another.

Thank you for your time and care. I look forward to the public hearing and a lot of explanations. Honest communication and a chance to be heard with enough time to prepare is all I am asking for.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Creighton

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Cal Dooley – Rep Gus Talanovich
Governor Gray Davis
State Senator Jim Costa – State Sen Ch. Poochigian
Assembly Member Mike Briggs – Dean Florez – Sand Keeps
County Supervisor