

Tri-Counties Young Farmers and Ranchers

Name Cassi J. Lawson
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AUG 22 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

RE: CAL-FED Final EIS/EIR

August 17, 2000

Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CALFED Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a member of the Tri-Counties Young Farmers and Ranchers, I feel it is necessary to respond to your recent release of the Cal-Fed final EIS/EIR report. I am concerned about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment and vitality on farms and ranches not only throughout the state, but also those located within Shasta, Tehama, and Lassen counties.

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. Your proposed plan will take out nearly 250,000 acres of production agriculture. There has not been enough thought put into the long-term effects of this drastic land conversion.

In addition, there needs to be an emphasis on surface water storage and point of origin labeling. Water stored needs to be readily available to the farmers and ranchers within the area that it originates in times of need. Raising the Shasta Dam is not going to alleviate the problem of accessible water in the central and southern valley, instead more high flows from wet winters need to be contained and stored in above ground reservoirs to insure that there is enough water in drought conditions.

I think that Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. It is your responsibility to tell us how its plan has changed and how it will effect the people before making a final decision that could be irreversible and irretrievable.

Sincerely,


Cassi J. Lawson

Member, Tri-Counties Young Farmers and Ranchers

Additional Comments:

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

Governor Gray Davis
State Senator Maurice Johannessen
State Senator Tim Leslie

State Assembly Sam Aanestad
State Assembly Dick Dickerson