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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

17 August 2000

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

As a member of the agricultural community of Sacramento County, I would like to make a few comments regarding the Cal-Fed process.

- 1) The time period proposed for public comment for the EIS/EIR document released on 21 July 00 is simply too short when the document size, plan complexity, and impact on the public is taken into account. I strongly recommend that the public review period be extended.
- 2) The ramifications of this complex report to the general public are enormous. I believe Cal Fed has an obligation to the public to have a series of regional public hearings that will allow for questions to be answered as to how this plan will affect each and every one of us.

I am concerned that CalFed has not adequately addressed the issues of farmland losses. From a state and national perspective, where will the displaced crops be produced once viable farmland is taken out of production. The only logical answer is imports which is completely counterproductive.

There is federal and state land that should be considered and used prior to encroaching on private property.

Farmers are by definition, stewards of the environment. I don't believe that creative solutions that allow farmland to continue producing crops and incorporate aspects of habitat conservation have been adequately considered.

Water is and will continue to be a critical issue for this state. Farmers know this better than anyone since their livelihood depends on a dependable supply of water. I don't debate that a statewide water plan is necessary. I do debate the manner in which it is suggested. I would hope that with public input, new ideas will be brought forth that will reduce the suggested loss of almost 250,000 acres of farmland in this state.

Sincerely,

Jim Michaels

Cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Doug Ose

Governor Gray Davis
Senator Deborah Ortiz
Assembly Member Dave Cox

Supervisor Dickinson
Supervisor Collin
Supervisor Johnson
Supervisor Neillo
Supervisor Nottoli

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