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AUG 29 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

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10826 E. Kettleman Lane
Lodi, Calif. 95240

8/18/2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 9th ST. Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/FIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. that way, the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

But farmers can not provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

I think, and hope that 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. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

Duane Quaschnick