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August 18, 2000

RECEIVED

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Re: Cal-Fed Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

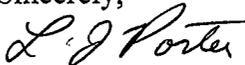
I am concerned that the Cal-Fed EIS/EIR is not adequately recognizing California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. With the Cal-Fed plan taking about 250,000 acres out of agricultural production there will be a significant impact to the environment with this land conversion. The Cal-Fed plan needs to make every effort and to seriously evaluate the ways to reduce this loss of farmland.

Most farmers are vitally aware of the need to protect our natural resources of land and water and I believe many would be willing to work with the Cal-Fed plan on a voluntary habitat conservation basis. It is important to provide a reliable food supply for our growing population. It would be desirable to balance these competing needs in an equitable manner and protect our valuable farmland resources.

Farmers need an affordable and reliable water supply to feed our growing population. The natural habitat area is currently using a very significant amount of land area and water resources in California. I believe it is essential for the Cal-Fed plan to include new water storage for agricultural, industrial and urban uses. Our current water supply will be in serious jeopardy in the event of drought that can extend a number of years. We are not adequately prepared for drought in this state at this time.

I request that Cal-Fed hold additional public hearings to fully explain Cal-Feds current plans before the plan becomes final. The 6,500 page document is huge and complex. The people deserve to know how the plan has changed and how it will affect the people of California. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have an adequate opportunity to review and comment on this very important document.

Sincerely,



Lawrence Porter
General Manager

CC: Senator Barbara Boxer Senator Dianne Feinstein State Sen. Bruce McPherson
Congressman Sam Farr Gov. Gray Davis Assemblyman Peter Frusetta
Assemblyman Fred Keeley Ca. Farm Bureau Fed. Mo. Co. Bd. of Supervisors

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