



# Tulare County Farm Bureau

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August 18, 2000

**RECEIVED**

**AUG 21 2000**

**CALFED Bay-Delta Program**

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

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Tulare County Farm Bureau is a private non-profit organization representing over 3,000 members. This organization works to find solutions facing problems of the farm, the farm family and the rural community.

The Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program released its final environmental impact report on July 21, 2000, giving people only until August 21, 2000 to comment on it—in writing. We feel that a 30-day comment period to digest over 6,000 pages is not sufficient time. We urge you to extend the period to review the lengthy document. The report is long, complicated and technical.

We urge you to reconsider holding public hearings to explain what the effects of this plan will have on our agriculture community, and others as well. Many changes were made to the report. The public needs to have an opportunity to understand, digest and discuss this complex document.

It is our opinion that Cal-Fed needs to move more quickly to develop surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs. Drought always takes a serious toll on California's environment and economy. Without new storage and additional yield, we will continue to have disastrous years ahead.

Sincerely,

Kerry Whitson  
President

KW/cl

*OUR MISSION: To promote and enhance the viability of Tulare County agriculture*