

RECEIVED

AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

1331 Valley View Circle
Lincoln, CA 95648

August 19, 2000

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

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a Placer County Cattle Rancher relatively small in size. However, I am deeply concerned with the future of Agriculture in Placer County. I was raised on a small Farm here in Placer County and I want the same for my kids. I have volunteered much of my free time to the Fish and Game Dept. in Northern California, so I am quite familiar with the challenges of preserving wildlife habitat.

I have a full time job with Pacific Bell Telephone Company, so I am also fully aware of the future plans of urban growth in Placer County. This type of dynamic growth often times squeezes out the wildlife leaving nearby ranches their only refuge. These nearby ranches rely on local water supply for grazing and crops that directly benefit local wildlife. Without this water supply, we would have (in many areas) nothing less than wasteland covered with star thistle.

I realize that in many cases ignorance is bliss, however, this subject of Cal-Fed concerns me enough that I do not wish to remain ignorant. I would like to see public hearings held on this matter, as well as a thorough outline supplied to the local Farm Bureau to be disseminated to the local ranchers, prior to the public hearings. In all systems there must be a balance, and I truly believe that local farms and ranches play an integral part of local ecosystems. It is for this reason that our side must be heard before any new policies are put into action. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,


Blaine Eslinger

Cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Governor Gray Davis

C - 1 1 4 5 1 6

C-114516