

August 20, 2000

Steve Prentice
9366 River Road
Chico, CA 95928
(530) 345-1566

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

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dr. Mr. Ritchie,

I farm 230 acres of almonds, walnuts and vineseed in the Sacramento Valley.

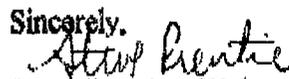
I would like to request that you extend the period of time to review and comment on the final EIS/EIR released July 21. As I write this, our harvest has already begun, there is no way I have the time to review a document of this size and scope in that amount of time.

I would also like to request that you hold public hearings explaining what you will do and how it will affect us. Many changes were made to the report, the public needs to have an opportunity to understand and discuss. You do have an obligation and responsibility to tell us how the plan will affect us.

I believe the Cal-Fed plan works under a false assumption that any changes man makes to the environment are harmful. Careful examination of the real facts shows that this isn't the case. History will show that the best solutions to protecting and repopulating wildlife come through cooperative agreements with landowners, not through government intervention.

Taking thousands of acres out of production will have a huge impact on local economies, through the loss of tax base, wildlife habitat and food production.

Please listen to the voice of agriculture that has tried to tell their view of potential impacts. They are people whose livelihood depends on the environment and they don't take environmental concerns lightly, there needs to be a reasonable approach.

Sincerely,

Steve Prentice, Walter Sprague Orchards