

Robinson Farms
10835 Furlong Drive
Hanford, Ca. 93230

Aug. 14, 2000

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

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. The time allotted under the current schedule is too short for thorough review by all parties.

I've followed the Cal-Fed process and make the following comments to you concerning the final environmental report;

1. California farmland is a valuable environmental resource. Efforts should be made to improve improve wildlife habitat and the Bay Delta ecosystem without removing from production hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland.
2. 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.
3. In order to provide habitat and feed people, farmers need a reliable and affordable water supply. We're fooling ourselves to believe a system designed in the 50's and built in the 60's can provide this. New storage will help guarantee water for farms and the environment in dry years.
4. I am disappointed that Cal-Fed and its agencies have largely ignored the concerns of agriculture. Our industry is a big part of the skeleton of California business activity. We continue to supply a cheap source of food and fiber to the world. However the longterm health of our industry appears to be in jeopardy, unless changes are made to the Cal-Fed framework.

Sincerely,


Gary T. Robinson

Cc: Senator Diane Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Congressmen Cal Dooley
State Senator Jim Costa
State Assembly Member Dean Flores