Chiesa Ranch Inc.

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August 9, 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 Stanislaus County farmer. My family has been on this land for three generations. We are concerned about the future. I ask that you:

1. Give us more time to review and comment on the final Cal-Fed environmental report released July 21. I work more than 50 hours a week on my operation and more during this time of year due to harvest and irrigation and there is not enough time to review the plan.

2. Please hold public hearings to explain this plan to us. The report is long, complicated and technical.

I am concerned about this document, as I understand it so far. I have lots of wildlife and habitat on my operation. I know that other farmers do, too. If Cal-Fed acquires several hundred thousand acres of land as planned, it will be detrimental to habitat.

I do not believe that Cal-Fed adequately studied the effects of such a large-scale land conversion. I do not believe Cal-Fed tried hard enough to minimize farmland losses.

Sincerely,

Vito Chiesa

Vito Chiesa

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein, Governor Gray Davis, Senator Barbara Boxer, State Sen. Dick Monteith, Rep. Gary Condit, Assemblyman George House, Stanislaus County Supervisors

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