SAN BENITO COUNTY FARM BUREAU

April 11, 20000

Mr. [illegible], Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay Delta Program
[illegible] Ninth St., Suite 1155
[illegible], CA [illegible]

Re: Final Programmatic WIS/EIR

[illegible]

Agriculture is part of the environment – the land, water and air we all need to thrive. California farmland is a natural resource of global importance. Cal-Fed plans to acquire or control hundreds of thousands of acres of California farmland, mainly for fish and wildlife habitat. Cal-Fed has not done enough to study the environmental impact of this large- scale land conversion. And Cal-Fed has not looked seriously enough for ways to reduce farmland losses.

Cal-Fed should conduct its habitat-restoration work on existing government-owned land and reduce its impact on productive farmland. Government already owns half of California's 100 [illegible] acres.

Farmers can run wildlife-friendly, productive farms only if they have adequate, reliable, affordable water. Without water, farmland loses its value both as habitat and as a vital food resource for California's growing population.

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become the final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

[illegible]

[illegible]

Paul [illegible], Treasurer

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Sam Farr
Governor Grey Davis
County Supervisors
State Sen. Bruce McPherson
Assembly Member Peter Frusetta

530 San Benito Street, Suite 201 • Hollister, CA 95023 • Telephone (831) 637-7643 • Fax (831) 637- 7999