

Hillebrecht Farms
2170 Skyline Drive
Escondido, CA 92027

August 10, 2000

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

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

The government already owns half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife exists on privately owned land. We have done a better job of maintaining habitat than has the government. We take seriously our roles of stewards of the environment and wish to be partners with the government. Cal-Fed should encourage landowners to enhance voluntary habitat conservation efforts.

Cal-Fed needs to move more quickly to develop surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs. Water conservation cannot make the same strides it has made in the past. We will work to become more efficient, but drought will take a serious toll on California's environment and economy unless new storage with additional yield comes on line soon.

Sincerely,



Ben Hillebrecht

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein Governor Gray Davis Assemblyman Howard Kaloogian
 Senator Barbara Boxer Senator David Kelley Supervisor Bill Horn
 Representative Randy Cunningham