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another howard and booker enterprise

[illegible]

August 17, 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 concerned about how Cal-Fed programs will affect the environment on farms and ranches. Agriculture is an important part of California's environment. Cal-Fed plans to convert one-half [illegible] quarter of a million acres of farmland to habitat and other uses. It should study the environmental impact of that land conversion. Cal-Fed must seek ways to avoid taking farmland out of production.

I know many farmers who enhance the wildlife value of their farms. We are stewards of [illegible] and we want to be partners in environmental restoration. But we oppose requirements that tell us what to grow and how to grow it. Cal-Fed must work with us in a cooperative spirit.

To maintain productive and wildlife-friendly farms, farmers need reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must move aggressively to develop new water storage that provides adequate [illegible] more storage. California won't have enough water for the environment in dry years. That means water will be taken away from farms, especially during droughts. Without water, farms lose [illegible] value as habitat and as a vital food resource for California's growing population.

Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. [illegible] 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.

Sincerely,

Mike Howard

Mike Howard

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Doug Ose
Governor Gray Davis
State Sen. Maurice Johannessen
Assembly Member Helen Thomson
Supervisor [illegible]