

SARAH: HERE IS A COPY OF THE LETTER I SENT

John Viano  
192 Marelio Ave  
Martinez, CA 94553

August 16, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director  
Cal-Fed Bay Delta Program  
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1135  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

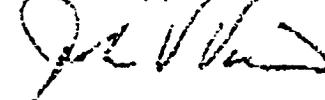
As a 4th generation farmer in Contra Costa County, I am concerned about the Cal-Fed Final EIS/EIR Report released July 21 and how its findings will be used to change the face of California Agriculture. Not only has Cal-Fed proposed to take 250,000 acres of farmland out of production, it will be lost forever. Taking with it thousands of jobs and tax base dollars, not to mention the other ill effects on local economies.

As our population continues to grow there are ever increasing demands for food and water. New demands for food are hard to supply without land to grow it on and more water is difficult to come up with if we do not have adequate storage to store it.

Agriculture provides habitat as it exists now. Cal-Fed should work with land-owners to come up with better habitat conservation, if it is truly needed, and not take the land out of production. It has been proven that wildlife and farming operations can co-exist.

I believe that the plan is flawed and ask that you extend the comment period so the citizens have adequate time to read this huge document and comment on it.

Sincerely,



John V. Viano

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Senator Barbara Boxer  
Rep. George Miller

Gov. Gray Davis  
State Sen. Richard Rainey  
Assemblyman Tom Torlakson  
Contra Costa County Supervisors