

SCHAAPMAN FARMS

DON SCHAAPMAN

FARM MANAGEMENT - CUSTOM FARMING

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August 9, 2000

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

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

I am a San Joaquin County farmer that will be directly impacted by any immediate decision made on the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the CalFed Bay-Delta Program.

I am concerned with the EIS/EIR by the way it directs the agricultural community to enhance the wildlife value of their farms by determining what commodity to grow and how to grow it. We have already taken many steps to strengthen our efforts to protect our local wildlife. We take our role as stewards of the environment seriously and want to be partners in restoration activities. This document though will take away my ability to choose what is best for my farm.

The government already owns half of the State of California's 100 million acres. This is a great place for CalFed to conduct its habitat-restoration work on existing government-owned land and reduce its impact on productive farmland. CalFed must consider this option before a final decision is certified.

Being an active farmer in my community, I have not had the time to sit down and completely read the 6,500-page final EIS/EIR nor will I have time in the current timeframe that is now in place. I need more time to evaluate the new environmental report, therefore, please extend the timeframe to allow myself as well as the public to review the document. I am also requesting that public hearings should be included for our government to hear what the public has to say about this program. This would also give me one more chance to understand just how this decision could affect my farming operation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Don Schaapman

**cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Richard Pombo
Governor Gray Davis
State Senator Patrick Johnston
Assemblyman Dennis Cardoza
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors**