



RIO BLANCO RANCH

L.N. ROBINSON, Jr., PRESIDENT

7000 S. INLAND DRIVE PHONE 466-7915 STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA 95206

August 7, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 115
Sacramento, AC 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am concerned about the Cal-Fed programs that will affect the environment on my farm, and the delta area of San Joaquin County. Agriculture is an important part of California's environment. Cal-Fed plans to convert nearly a quarter of a million acres of farmland to habitat and other uses. Cal-Fed should study the environmental and economic impacts of that land conversion.

Farmers are stewards of the land, and we would rather participate in environmental restoration, than be forced out of business. We oppose requirements that tell us what to grow and how to grow it. Cal-Fed must work with farmers 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 REAL new water yields. Without 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.

The Cal-Fed plan has been substantially changed in the final document, Cal-Fed needs to hold public hearings before the proposal becomes finalized. The public needs more time to adequately review and understand the proposal.

Sincerely,

Jerry N. Robinson
President

cc: Governor Gray Davis
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
State Senator Patrick Johnston
Representative Richard Pombo
Assembly Member Michael Machado
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors