(1)

RECEIVED
AUG 21 2000
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Dear Mr. Ritchie;

I am a third generation farmer in California. My family has farmed in Countra Costa & Alameda Counties for more than 150 years. We have been taking Care of Wild life all this time. We grow Wheat, Barley, Oats, Corn, Drybeans, sun flower, hay & Cattle.

It is of great Concern to us how Cal-Fed programs will affect the enviroment on farms and ranches. Agriculture is big and important part of Californias enviroment. Cal-Fed plans to Convert nearly a quarter of a Million acers of farmland to habitat and other uses. It should study the enviromental impact of that land conversion.

Cal-Fed must find ways to avoid taking farmland out of production. I know many farmers who take care of wild life as we have for 150 years.

I know water is a messary part of all life, and without it nothing can survive. We need more storage for the crops, Wildlife, and people. In dry years everything suffers for the lack of water. a shortage of water means a shortage of food, lumber, electricity, jobs and wild life. everything down the line suffers.

CalFed out telling us how what and when to farm! We the people need to be informed of their planes from the begining and not after they are finalized.

I think the enviromental group and Cal-Fed should work with us. We own the land Pay the taxes on it and Cal-Fed ~~an~~ the enviromentist tell us how, what, when, to farm. With out the water none of their demands will be for filled. We need reliable and affordable water. We need adequate water storage to be able to meet the need of everyone and everything

Sincerly

Howard Betteron