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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

MITCHELL'S TURKEY FARM
9651 Grant Line Rd.
Elk Grove, CA 95624
(916) 685-9700

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

RE: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I am a contract turkey grower in south Sacramento County. I ask two things and then shall comment on the document. The request are:

1. Extend the period to look through the document and provide comments on the final EIS/EIR released July 21. As a farmer I can't adequately review the thousands of pages in the document in the time allowed.

2. Hold public hearings to explain what you will do and the effects on us. Many changes were made to the report, which the public needs to have an opportunity to understand and discuss. I fear that even after we review the document there will be a lot that we won't understand. Even thought you may not believe you are obligated to tell us how the plan will affect us, it's the right thing to do.

Comments: I believe that in trying to protect the environment, the Cal-Fed plan actually will harm it instead. Taking thousands of acres of land out of production will change the face of California agriculture dramatically. It will have a huge impact on the environment, not to mention local economies. When the land in private ownership stops providing food, a tax base and wildlife habitat, what happens to the land?

The farm environment where wildlife has gathered will be forever changed. Those cops won't be grown. Many species now occupy the acres of farmland Cal-Fed proposes to take out of production. They are there because of the habitat provided by farmers and ranchers. History shows that the government has not done a good job of protecting and repopulating these species. Cooperative arrangements with landowners have worked better.

The Cal-Fed plan is flawed. I am disappointed that Cal-Fed and its agencies have turned a deaf ear to the more than 1,000 representatives of agriculture who attended your 16 hearings last year. Of the 800 people who spoke, most were farmers and ranchers and their families and neighbors. These people are stewards of the environment, managing land and water that produces food, wildlife and oxygen.

Sincerely,

Ken W Mitchell

KEN W. MITCHELL

cc. Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbar Boxer
Rep. Doug Ose
Governor Gray Davis
State Sen. Patrick Johnson
Assembly Member Anthony Pescetti