

Families Protecting the Valley

1930 Howard Road, Suite 121
Madera, CA 93637

John Simpson, President
Chester Andrew, Vice President
Richard Jest, Secretary
Robert Poythress, Treasurer

Steve Ritchie
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 9th Street, Ste 1155
Sacramento, CA

July 26, 2000

Dear Mr. Ritchie;

Families Protecting the Valley is a local Madera County organization formed to fight the proposed Madera Ranch Groundwater Bank resurrected by Azurix/Enron. We join the long list of organizations, entities and elected officials that are opposed to the Madera Ranch Groundwater Bank (MRGB). The MRGB has been exposed as technically flawed, unable to succeed in that area of Madera County without damage to the communities of Madera County AND seeks to bank, export and sell our Sierra Nevada water from the Friant Unit of the Central Valley Project. As soon as the water begins to leave our community, it will never stop and our economic health will begin its downward spiral. Water is the bluegold of our communities; we must control our natural resources for use here in the San Joaquin Valley. We are fighting for nothing less than our livelihood and livelihood of our children. Nothing about this project is beneficial to local interests and therefore, the MGRB **has NO LOCAL SUPPORT**. Be assured that we are long term residents of Madera County, passionate about our way of life and therefore, we will not sway in our determination to fight the Madera Ranch Groundwater Bank.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



John Simpson, President
Families Protecting the Valley