

SAMPLE APPLICATION LETTER

Jerry Mander Ranch
P.O. Box 3006
Willows, CA 95685

December 3, 1996

Dale Garrison, Agricultural Waterfowl Incentive Program Manager
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2233 Watt Ave., Suite 375
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Sir,

I am writing in response to your November announcement for the Incentive Program to Flood Agricultural Fields for Waterfowl. I own 440 acres of agricultural land in Glenn County located in Section 9, Township 18 North, Range 3 West. My ranch is just west of Interstate 5 across from the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge and is within the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District. I have enclosed a map that depicts the location of my ranch and its relationship to the refuge. I would like to participate in the incentive program for flooding agricultural lands for waterfowl habitat. I propose to flood 320 acres of harvested corn stubble from approximately mid-October of this year to the end of February next year.

I plan to utilize a portion of my water supply available from the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) to flood the lands, and can maintain the fields as needed with an irrigation well. I have grown corn and barley on these fields for the past ten years. My adjacent fields have been managed as irrigated pasture and tomatoes for the same time period. The neighboring ranches are primarily rice growers with some row crops.

I will use approximately ___ acre-feet of water to flood the fields to a depth of six inches. The fields have been laser leveled so water control and depth is easy to maintain. The water will be delivered from the GCID system which diverts water from the Sacramento River at Hamilton City. I will de-water the fields beginning March first. I estimate that ___ acre-feet will be drained into Logan Creek. The fields drain east to Logan Creek and then to the 2047 Drain. Enclosed is a letter from the GCID that outlines their operations that comply with the Endangered Species Act and assures that the water supply I will utilize for the program will not reduce water for duck clubs.

I have not flooded any of my fields in the past due to the cost of pumping well water to maintain water depths. I expect that my costs for participating in the program will total about \$_____. The costs include: GCID water costs (\$_/acre); pumping costs and maintenance of my irrigation well (\$_/acre-foot); and labor costs to check and maintain fields (\$_/hour). Therefore the incentive I am requesting is \$_____ in order to offset these costs. I would like to utilize the incentive program to determine if flooding of my fields can be a benefit to farm operations and also result in opportunities for additional income.

I am available to answer any questions you may have regarding the flooding of my fields for the ducks and geese. My phone number is _____, or I can be reached at the above address.