



California Farm Bureau Federation

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY

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November 19, 1996

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Mary Selkirk
1619 Jaynes Street
Berkeley, CA 94703

Dear Mary:

I would like to bring to your attention a program that the California Farm Bureau Federation, Workers Growers Association, and many others in the agricultural community have developed to encourage viable farming operations that will result in a net benefit to threatened and endangered species. This program, known as the Habitat Enhancement Landowner Program (H.E.L.P.), is particularly relevant to your efforts as the chair of the Cal-Fed/BDAC Ecosystem Restoration Work Group. H.E.L.P. will not only assure continued agricultural production in a way that complements the Cal-Fed goals to maintain and restore terrestrial habitat, but it will also enable farmers and ranchers to fully realize the potential of nonpoint source pollution management to benefit water quality and aquatic species.

Enclosed for your review is a summary and description of the H.E.L.P. program in its most current form. I would urge your working group and the Cal-Fed staff to factor this program into your ecosystem restoration strategy as soon as possible. Carolyn Richardson in our office has been Farm Bureau's lead on this program, and she and Kathy Mannion of Western Growers Association, are available to meet with you, Cal-Fed staff, and the Ecosystem Workgroup to further explain the program.

Thank you again for your consideration of this important program for California.

Sincerely yours,

DAVID J. GUY

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Enclosure

cc: Lester Snow
 Dick Daniel
 Pat McCarty
 Stuart Pyle
 Mary-Ann Warmerdam