



September 22, 1999

**Valentino Jack,**  
Tribal Chairman

To Whom It May Concern:

**Anthony Jack,**  
Tribal Vice Chairman

The Tribal Leaders of Big Valley Rancheria request direct access to the funding available to watershed restoration projects. The Tribal Leaders of Big Valley Rancheria don't want the Tribe's existing funding under the EPA's Clean Water Act programs to be spread even thinner to cover the costs of involvement in the Cal Fed Bay Delta Program. New or existing, but not utilized, funding sources need to be promoted by Cal Fed staff to support and ensure Tribal involvement.

**Tina Ramos,**  
Tribal Secretary

**Priscilla Ballente,**  
Tribal Treasurer

The watershed program, the water transfer program, and many other aspects of the program need to develop provisions to allow special agreements to protect the interests of the Tribes encompassed in the Cal Fed Bay Delta program. The management of the Clear Lake outlet negatively impacts the Big Valley Rancheria shoreline with the regular occurrence of flood conditions and results in the degradation of trust assets of the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians. In addition, the Tribal Leaders have instructed my office to communicate their concerns that Cal Fed Bay Delta program activities will negatively impact the Tribe's Water Rights. The Tribe has set as a priority the determination of the Tribe's Water Rights and the development of a Big Valley Rancheria Water Resource Plan. The advancement of the economic and community conditions for the members of the Tribe depends on a secure water source for future development.

I am requesting assistance in coordinating a Tribal workshop where technical experts could present aspects of the program and Tribes could ask questions regarding the draft EIS. The goal of the workshop would be to assist Tribes in the interpretation of the potential program activities and how these activities may impact the interests of the Tribes of the watershed.

Sincerely,

Mike Schaver  
Environmental Coordinator, Big Valley Rancheria  
Central California Representative, Regional Tribal Operation Committee  
Bay Delta Advisory Council Member