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California Farm Bureau Federation

1601 Exposition Boulevard • Sacramento, CA 95815 • Telephone (916) 924-4000

July 9, 1997

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Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay/Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Ste. 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Lester:

As you and the Cal-Fed staff begin to flesh out the details of your proposed alternatives, it is becoming readily apparent that the program does not bode well for California agriculture. After earlier discussions in Phase I of the program, we thought the program would be back on track. We are now very disappointed to find that the entire premise of your program seems to be to reallocate agricultural water and to convert agricultural land for other purposes. (See attached summary.) This is simply not an acceptable solution for California agriculture.

We have to keep harking back to the Governor's water policy and the Cal-Fed solution principles, both of which require that all sectors will move forward together and the benefits and burdens must be equally distributed amongst the different sectors. At this time, we see little (if any) benefit to California agriculture in this process and it appears that the burden rests squarely on our shoulders. This burden on agriculture is exacerbated by similar proposals in the Colorado River Basin and the numerous programs under the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA).

We have long been supporters of a long-term delta solution and we still believe that such a solution is critical to the long-term health of California. Unfortunately, a significant change in the program is needed at this point. Our concerns are not prejudgment or pre-selection--they are based on fundamental flaws in the common programs. Small tinkering around the edges will not do the trick.

If you would like to discuss this further, please call me at (916) 924-4075 or David Guy at (916) 924-4037.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Bob'.

BOB L. VICE
President

BLV:lfp:mo
cc: Mike Madigan
Sunne McPeak
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