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SACRAMENTO COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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JAN 22 1998

January, 21, 1998

Lester A. Snow
Executive Director
CALFED
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow,

Sacramento County Farm Bureau (SCFB) has some concerns about the current CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM and recently released documents. The Board of Directors has adopted a position of opposition to the CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM unless these concerns are addressed.

The first issue of concern is the amount of valuable prime farmland that will be removed from production and turned into wetlands and wildlife habitat. The Delta has some of the richest farmland in the world; it would be unwise and imprudent to destroy such an important resource. Estimates of over 150,000 acres of farmland in the Delta will be converted from farmland to some form of habitat. This amount of acreage, if removed from agriculture production, will devastate the local economies in the region and greatly impact family farmers' ability to provide a food supply for the region, state, nation and the world.

The second issue of concern is that the CALFED PROGRAM is not addressing one of the major problems in the Delta and the State, the over commitment of the amount of water in the state and the lack of water supply to address the problem. We can spend millions of dollars recreating habitat and transferring water from agriculture use to urban use, but this still does not address the main problem. Unless we, as a state, develop additional water supplies and storage, the Delta will always have environmental and water quality problems.

Finally, Sacramento County Farm Bureau is concerned about water transfers from agriculture users to urban interests. We feel this is not an appropriate solution to the problems within the Delta. Some water transfers may take place that can benefit both urban and agriculture; however, these should be limited due to the impact they will have on the local communities.

To Represent and Promote Agriculture in Sacramento County

We believe it is important to address all the issues regarding the CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM. If some of these major issues for agriculture are not resolved, we must stand opposed to CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM and its funding.

Thank you,



Mike Wackman, President
Sacramento County Farm Bureau

cc: Governor Pete Wilson
Congressman Richard Pombo
Senator Pat Johnston
Assemblyman Larry Bowler
Supervisor Don Nottoli