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547 24th St., Apt. 22
Oakland, CA 94612-1742
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CalFed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., #1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Ladies & Gentlemen:

Last Thursday (8/26), I attended the public hearing in Oakland. At that time I received a yellow sheet of paper to be used for submitting written comments. After re-reading what I wrote, I decided to rewrite my comments to make them more succinct.

First of all, let me say that I am an environmentalist. I belong to a number of environmental groups, including, but not limited to: Sierra Club, Environmental Defense Fund, EarthJustice Legal Defense Fund, Greenpeace, National Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife Federation, and The Wilderness Society.

Rather than damming and diverting water from upstream, I would prefer to see stricter water conservation laws passed, the price of water increased for all users, and desalinization plants constructed. The bay and delta are already dying because of pollution and a lack of fresh water inflows. Reducing the present amount of fresh water flowing into the bay and delta will only exacerbate this problem.

I am also troubled by what I perceive to be an undue influence on the CalFed decision-making process by agricultural interests. Personally, I would like to see farmers denied any water for irrigation until they have met two requirements: First, they should adopt, for 100% of their crops, less wasteful means of delivering water to their fields, such as drip irrigation instead of spraying. Second, they should adopt organic farming methods and put an end to the use of chemical fertilizers, insecticides, herbicides and fungicides, which are the major contributors to water pollution. If farmers had practiced more sustainable agricultural methods, the present water situation would not be nearly as dire.

Besides my address above, I can be contacted at (415) 657-6469 during the day, and at (510) 835-2703 in the evening. My fax number is (415) 657-6096.

Please add me to your mailing list.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christian L. Heinold