1284 SEP 23 1999

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September 21, 1999

Rick Breitenbach
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Breitenbach:

My name is Ross Nissen, and I own farmland located at the northern end of the Salinas Valley. The direction CALFED has taken regarding additional surface, off-stream, and ground water storage is simply unacceptable.

There is a great need for increased water supplies for the projected population growth alone, much less for any growth in water use by agriculture. Farmers and ranchers should not be forced to limit water use in order for the state population to grow unchecked. The Endangered Species Act must be not be allowed to continue to unfairly, not to mention illegally, discriminate against people and private property rights. The CALFED program has to address the needs of cities, farms, ranches, and the environment equitably. California agriculture produces fruits, vegetables, and meat with water that is clean and potable. Without adequate water supplies for California agriculture this food will have to be imported from countries which in many cases irrigate with non-potable water in addition to not having chemical regulations for consumer protection.

The CALFED program provides guarantees for everything and everyone - except agriculture! I still believe in the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights; however, CALFED apparently does not. In my opinion, the activities of this illegal government program called CALFED constitute a regulatory taking of private property, and those rights which belong to the owners of said private property. I urge you to reconsider your priorities concerning the CALFED program.

Sincerely,

Ross Nissen

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