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Mendocino County Farm Bureau

Affiliated with the California Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm Bureau Federation
Norma C. Bartolomei, President Carre J. Brown, Executive Administrator

September 23, 1999

CalFed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St. #1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Public Review Period for the Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Sirs:

The Mendocino County Farm Bureau represents 1600 family and business memberships in this area. We are deeply concerned the CalFed program places people and agriculture last on its problem solving proposals. Millions of people will be affected by CalFed's decisions.

Actions that take farmland out of production will affect thousands of jobs in California, not just the farmer. Rural California will suffer by the loss of its agriculture economy and so will the consumer who is the main benefactor of a healthy, locally produced food supply.

The CalFed document relies on taking water away from people through water transfers, the idling of productive land, and conservation measures. The CalFed program does very little to address new water storage for a growing population. We owe it to the tax-paying public and to our children to plan for our future. Please remember the people.

CalFed's amazingly long, complicated document manages to omit many key details. A map in the Executive Summary, page 6, shows the program encompassing most all of California. It is a shocking size and includes many areas that have no direct relation to the bay-delta. Mendocino County is included in the graphic scope of the "Solution Areas". Yet, no where in the 4,600 pages of the EIS/EIR is Mendocino County specially mentioned. Other CalFed maps omit inland Mendocino county in the Solution area, however, our coastline continues to be included. The people of Mendocino County deserve a written response from CalFed explaining in detail the purpose for our inclusion.

The people of California, both urban and rural, will work together to assure reliable water supplies for our future. CalFed should promote a true incentive-based approach that allows a system where both the environment and people win.

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The Mendocino County Farm Bureau requests an extension of the comment period for the EIS/EIR. Mendocino County citizens must understand first what the CalFed program proposes for their area before key responses can be made. An extension of the comment period can provide this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Norma Bartolomei

Norma Bartolomei, President