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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov



Felicia Marcus, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: 3/17-18/15 Board Meeting, Item 9

Dear Chair Marcus and Members of the Board:

We are submitting comments on the proposed revisions to the emergency regulation regarding information orders, Section 879. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

1. Receipt of an Unsupported Complaint is Insufficient

As drafted, the regulations allow issuance of an information order upon receipt of a complaint, regardless of the merits of the complaint.

We proposed that Section 879(1)(A) be amended as follows:

- (A) Upon receipt of a complaint alleging interference with a water right by a water right holder, diverter or user, provided the complainant has provided specific factual information to support the allegation that specific, identified diversions are unlawful and causing harm to the complainant;

Last year, this Board adopted emergency regulation which gave the Deputy Director information order authority upon mere receipt of a complaint. In July 23, 2014, the California Department of Water Resources and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation submitted letters to the Director, generally accusing diverters in the South and Central Delta of illegally diverting in excess of their water rights and "stealing" stored water that was conveyed through the Delta. These letters contained no specific information regarding which diverters were diverting in excess of their rights or how exactly the diversions were stealing water. Nevertheless, the Deputy Director used the letters to justify issuing an information order to more than a thousand separate diverters, primarily located in the South, Central and North Deltas, requesting voluminous and detailed information about their water rights and diversions.

This office assisted landowners in the Delta with making the requested responses within a month. The effort and expense was enormous, and yet core issues remain completely unaddressed by this Board, making the submission of the information useless for purposes of resolving the alleged complaint. Specifically:

- (1) As for diverters in the South and Central Delta, the Board has yet to develop information on the sources of water available for diversion in the South and Central Delta in 2014 or 2015 that would enable the Board to determine if a diverter in this region was unlawfully diverting in excess of a given right, or if such diversions amounted to a stealing of transfer water.
- (2) The specific diverters who were alleging diverting in excess of their rights have not been identified, meaning that the submissions for more than one thousand claimed rights must be reviewed by a competent staff person, who understands the law of riparian and pre-1914 rights, as well as the available supplies at each identified point of diversion, to form an opinion regarding whether an unlawful diversion occurred. No staff resources are available to undertake this enormous task.
- (3) As for diverters in the North Delta, subject to the 1981 Contract between DWR and North Delta Water Agency, there has been no accusation that these diverters lack water rights or were stealing transfer water. In fact, because of the nature of the contract, it is impossible that these diverters could steal water released by DWR. There appears to be no basis for the informational request.

There are plenty of things for State Board and staff to be working on during this extended drought and analysis of the historic patents and certificates of purchase for 1,000+ different diversions does not appear to be a logical or feasible pursuit.

Amending the regulation to put a reasonable burden on the complaining party to provide specific information supporting the complaint is logical and would help focus limited resources on true problems as opposed to the current broad-brushed approach which has unfairly burdened the Delta region without a prior showing of good cause.

2. The Unimpaired Flow Analysis is Flawed as to Available Supplies for Delta Diverters

Appendix 5 of the Information Order Emergency Regulations Digest, issued March 11, 2015, focuses on an unimpaired flow analysis and system flow chart that continues to ignore the fact that supplies available for diversion in the Delta are not limited to the unimpaired flows of upstream tributaries. Last year, despite the unimpaired flow analysis showing very little water reaching the Delta, water levels remained similar to prior years for Delta channels, because of the effect of the tide and the geography of Delta channels.

This is not a new phenomenon, and is in fact, a primary reason that irrigation of Delta islands was pursued. The following article from April 1898, in the middle of a severe drought, explains how the effect of the tide was used to irrigate Delta island lands despite the fact that flows in the

San Joaquin River were very low due to drought. (The full newspaper page for that day is attached as an exhibit to this letter).

IRRIGATING SAN JOAQUIN LOW LANDS.—Irrigation has secured a better foothold in San Joaquin county within the last few weeks than it had under either of the irrigation systems established with so much cost. And the new systems are comparatively inexpensive ones. All told, nearly 20,000 acres of land will be under irrigation in San Joaquin county within a few weeks. The great bulk of it is in the reclaimed region, where the cost is nominal. It was generally supposed that water could not be run on the island farms from the San Joaquin river without pumping when the river was at so low a stage as it is now, but the necessity caused by the recent drouth resulted in an investigation, and it was ascertained that irrigation was feasible. The reclaimed lands are basin-shaped, being lowest at the center of the tract and highest next to the river bank. Along the levees the water in the river is below the surface of the land, but it can be conducted through a ditch into the lower central portion. On the Woods Brothers' tract a survey showed that it would be necessary to run a canal from Middle river half a mile inland before the

water could be conducted out over the surface of the farm. This canal will be 25 feet wide on the bottom. Near the river it will have $2\frac{1}{3}$ feet of water in it at high tide and $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet at low tide. Sixty horses and fifteen scrapers are now engaged in the work. The irrigation system will be made a permanent one, and for that reason a substantial headgate is being fixed in the levee at the Middle river end of the canal. Most of the irrigation is being done by means of siphons, which conduct the water over the tops of the levees.—Stockton Mail.

The Board should also review DWR's "Long Term Trends of Delta Residence Time," available at http://baydeltaoffice.water.ca.gov/modeling/deltamodeling/presentations/DeltaResidenceTimeResults_mmierzwa.pdf. This diagram explains how the Delta works as a mixture of water from the bay and the tributaries and how tributary flows have a residence time in Delta Channels from days to months - with the time being longer when flows are smaller. Thus water availability in the Delta during drought is tied to tributary flows from prior months more so than current flow measurements. It is frustrating that these basic physical facts continue to be ignored in the publications released regarding drought, available supply and possible justification for curtailment.

3. The Cost Estimates for Compliance are Understated.

Having just completed a month of work to comply with the recent informational order for dozens of clients, I can attest that the cost estimates in the March 11, 2015 Emergency Regulations Digest are seriously understated. The number of hours required to compile riparian and pre-1914 supporting documents for each property are too low by a factor of at least 3. In addition, \$65 per hour agency staff people cannot analyze these documents and form opinions that they support riparian and pre-1914 rights - that is the job of water right professionals, typically attorneys or engineers who have worked in the field for many years and charge \$200+/hour.

Hopefully the Board understands that most riparian and pre-1914 right analyzes are extremely fact specific and it is rare to fund the "cut-and-dry" scenario. Therefore, the informational order process creates considerable work, expense and angst, particularly when the time frames are short and most of these diverters have not had to deal with the State Board before because they or their predecessors have diverted consistently without question for a century.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jennifer L. Spalletta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

JENNIFER L. SPALETTA
Attorney at Law

Exhibit A - Information Order Form Issues

Riparian Rights

1. The online informational order webform asked for patent information and date, with a misleading and useless link to the Federal Patent website.
 - a. The Federal Patents are largely irrelevant for Delta properties because these properties were patented from the United States to the State of California as Swamp and Overflowed land. The S&O land was then surveyed, subject to Certificates of Purchase, and eventually granted from the State of California to landowners. It is these state patents that are relevant, but they are not obtainable through internet sources. They must be obtained from the State Lands Commission by specific request.
 - b. The date of the patent for S&O lands is also irrelevant to the riparian right because the right generally will relate back to the Certificate of Purchase date. Therefore, the patent date sought by the SWRCB on the form is useless for prioritization of diversions.
2. The webform asked whether the property [had] been severed from the riparian watercourse but the riparian claim preserved through title
 - a. This compound question called for two legal conclusions that a layperson could not answer. They also made no sense when compounded.

Pre-1914 Rights

1. The webform asked for date of first use and whether water had been continuously used.
 - a. This type of information is generally the subject of expert testimony in cases involving pre-1914 rights. It cannot be supplied by laypersons who have not conducted this research and were not alive prior to 1914.
2. The webform asked for a sworn statement supporting continuous use.
 - a. Again, this was an impossible request given that the responding parties were not alive and are not competent to swear to facts that they did not observe.

look is discouraging. Stock is starving and horses can be bought in some localities for \$1.50. Sheep perishing. Fruit doing well, but as orchardists have not faced such a dry season before, the future is uncertain.

SHASTA.—Fruit not so badly injured by early frosts as supposed. Figs are setting nicely, with promise of large crop. Grain at a standstill. Driving stock to summer ranges earlier than usual. Rain badly needed.

TEHAMA.—Crop outlook very discouraging. Doubtful if rain now would do any good. Favorable for fruit; orange trees in full bloom.

GLENN.—Summer-fallow grain is standing the dry weather better than expected. Some farmers expect to raise feed for their stock.

BUTTE.—Orange trees in bloom. Good indications of heavy crop of lemons, plums, pears and prunes. Feather river rising; snow melting on the high ranges above.

YUBA.—On adobe lands and rich river lands moisture is failing and grain looks very bad. All apricots and almonds and almost all of peaches gone. No hay; small crop of pears and prunes. Outlook discouraging.

SACRAMENTO.—Ten days more of this weather and hay and grain will be an absolute failure; if good showers occur, will give one-third of crop.

YOLO.—Fruit advancing rapidly; spraying fruit trees. Heavy orchards on lowlands still being irrigated.

SOLANO.—First box of cherries to go East this year shipped on 15th, eleven days earlier than last year; good crop expected. Other fruit not showing up well. Summer-fallow may yield half a crop; winter sown will be a failure.

SAN JOAQUIN.—Dry, with norther early in week. Grain damaged considerably.

STANISLAUS.—Drying up fast. Crops inside canal district doing well, but outside, beyond hope. North winds.

KERN.—Irrigation water scarce. Fruit trees that are not frosted doing well. Limited acreage in dry lands still promises grain. Some dry lands will produce hay, some nothing.

FRESNO.—Warm weather. Increased flow of water from the mountains; much needed for irrigation.

KINGS.—No grain. Fruit that escaped frost is doing well. Vineyards leading out.

TULARE.—Outlook for grain very poor. Will have some pears and prunes.

SONOMA.—Grapes coming in. Prunes a good crop. Rain needed.

NAPA.—Indications of good grain and hay crop. Very fair fruit yield.

ALAMEDA.—Grain on southern exposures drying out. Prospects for hay and grain poor. Grass drying fast. Fruit and nut season fair. Grapes budding. Vegetables doing well.

LAKE.—The 12th was the warmest April day in fourteen years. Early sown grain looks very well; late sown will amount to nothing unless rain falls soon. No plowing. Peaches, pears and apples promise well.

SAN MATEO.—Some early hay being cut. Strawberries ripening, but crop will be short. Ground very dry.

SANTA CRUZ.—Hot weather and dry winds have had bad effect on crops and feed.

SANTA CLARA.—Drouth is beginning to be seriously felt. Hay and grain must be a failure. Ranchers have little hope. Much fruit on trees, but how it will mature is problematical, as orchardists have never experienced a dry year since fruit growing reached its present proportions.

MONTEREY.—Very warm and dry. Small chance for any crop.

SAN LUIS OBISPO.—Crops look very bad. Apples and peaches coming out better than anticipated. Grass and grain gone. Horses selling for \$1.50 each; poor ones turned out to die. Shipping cattle away.

SANTA BARBARA.—Hot wave middle of week. No particular damage.

VENTURA.—Hot wind damaged apricots; many falling.

LOS ANGELES (Bassett).—Grain drying. Some alfalfa on market. Little corn planted. (Duarte).—All cereals suffering for rain. Navel oranges all shipped. (Los Angeles).—Fruit of all kinds looking well. Hay and grain a failure. Acreage sown to grain and hay will afford some pasturage. (Palmdale).—No pasture and very little grain. (Pomona).—Hay crop short. Citrus fruits doing fairly well. (San Fernando).—North wind. Hay and grain a failure. Deciduous fruits fair.

SAN DIEGO.—No rain. Oranges and lemons blossoming profusely. Strawberries ripening slowly. Unusually windy.

RIVERSIDE.—No improvement in grain and hay. Orange shipments slightly increased.

ORANGE.—Hay and grain crop light. Fruit trees looking well.

ERERA SUMMARY.—Drying north winds checked growth of grass and grain. Pear and cherry trees in full bloom. Rain will soon be needed.

LOS ANGELES SUMMARY.—Intense heat and dried winds fore part of week about ended prospect for hay and grain, dried up vegetation not under irrigation and injured apricots and walnuts to some extent.

are not slow to point out that the order still excludes the stock from the parks, and it is in these alone that the requisite pasture can be obtained. The forest reservations, as such, are as bare of grass this year as the plains themselves. The entire tract of country on the west side from Newman to Bakersfield, embracing an area of 100 miles in length by 30 in width, and which in previous years has supported enormous herds of cattle at this season, is now a desert. The waters of Tulare lake will be lower this year than at any time within the memory of the oldest inhabitant. To reach the water the cattle will have to wade through three feet of mud and the prospects all through the slough country are for a repetition of the scenes of 1877, when hundreds of sick and thirsty animals died on the banks from sheer exhaustion and inability to wade farther.—Fresno Letter.

Los Angeles.

THE OUTLOOK.—The greater part of the agricultural and horticultural products of this section are raised by irrigation. There are exceptions to this rule. Grain and grain hay are raised without irrigation, and these crops are short. Hay has advanced in price to \$20 and \$22 per ton. Alfalfa hay is raised by irrigation mostly, and farmers having alfalfa fields are reaping a harvest, because the alfalfa hay crop is not, as a rule, short and the price is very high. Beets are raised without irrigation, and the crop will be very short. Persons who seem to be well posted claim that the sugar beet crop will not be over one-half an average, and possibly not over one-quarter. Crops raised by irrigation will not be cut short for want of water, although some of the fruit crops, such as apricots and peaches, will be light in places, on account of the late frosts, which killed some of the fruit in the bloom or soon after. The supply of irrigation water will be but little short of the normal. Orchardists, during the past two months, have been using water freely and soaking the ground so thoroughly that a little shortage in midsummer will do but little or no damage. * * * On account of our irrigation systems, which are very complete, southern California is much better able to stand a dry season than are the valleys north of Tehachapi pass—at least those portions of the great valleys where there are no irrigating systems, and in this respect we are especially fortunate. Our condition is not so good as it might be, but it might be much worse, and a dry season today has few terrors as compared with a dry season twenty years ago.—Los Angeles Herald.

Monterey.

SQUIRREL BOUNTY.—A leading rancher of the valley yesterday expressed himself decidedly as to what he regarded the poor policy of the Supervisors in the matter of the squirrel bounty. "The Supervisors," he said, "began paying bounty on squirrel tails in the fall, continued it through the winter, and are cutting it off in the spring. Nine-tenths of the squirrels killed during this period have been males. As it is a well-known fact that the females hibernate during the winter, consequently very few of them have been killed, and it will be but a few weeks after spring opens up that we will have apparently as many squirrels as ever. The thing to do is to have the bounty in operation during the summer instead of the winter months.—Salinas Index.

A BIG WELL.—At the Spreckels sugar factory, near Salinas, men are employed in sinking an artesian well which will probably be the largest well in California. The well will be four feet in diameter and will be sunk to a depth of 160 feet. The sections of pipe as they are driven down are riveted together, and have already reached a depth of 24 feet. To sink this huge piping some ingenuity has been displayed. Across the top of the last section, up some 20 feet in the air, are laid two heavy rails, on either side of which is placed a tank, which will hold about 800 gallons of water. As the earth is dug from the interior by a hydraulic-worked shoveler, of the capacity of ten cubic yards, these tanks, filled with water, press the pipe down gradually.—San Benito Advance.

San Diego.

LEMON GROWERS WANT CHEAPER FREIGHTS.—Lemon growers should take no rest until they have secured as permanent the \$1 rate made by the Santa Fe road to Eastern points. As has been wisely pointed out, a temporary reduction will work hardship instead of profit to the lemon growers. The fruit will be rushed to the market in such large quantities, everybody desiring to take advantage of the reduced rate at the same time, that a glut will follow and lemons will bring no returns to speak of. There is no doubt that a \$1 rate can be made profitable to the railroad. Much fruit that could not be shipped at the higher rate may be forwarded at the lowest with a small margin in favor of the grower. The suggestion made that chambers of commerce, boards of trade and such like bodies in southern California should use the most strenuous efforts to have the low rate made permanent must be immediately acted upon. United action alone can win and now is the time to act.—National City Record.

WORKING UP LEMON CULLS.—The Otay Press announces that the citric-acid factory, at National City, is now ready for the machinery, which has been ordered, and daily expected to arrive. The capacity of the plant when fully equipped is expected to be sufficient to use every lemon raised in the district, with no fear of overstocking it. The factory will start up with a capacity of ten tons per day, and the company has a large stock of lemons on hand to begin with. The price to be paid for culls will be about \$5 a ton. Many tons of lemons are now rotting for the want of utilization, and several carloads shipped from the northern part of the county destined for the factory have been dumped into the bay. G. D. Eastman, of Fallbrook, is constructing a plant for the manufacture of citric acid, on a small scale, and expects soon to be able to use the cull lemons that now go to waste.

San Joaquin.

BEETS IN PLACE OF GRAIN.—Farmers in the vicinity of New Hope are reported to be irrigating their lands and getting ready to plant sugar beets for a season's crop on grain lands that have failed. The seeding will commence as soon as the ground is dry enough again to work. Tracts on Grand, Ryer and Brannan islands are being irrigated for the purpose. In all, it is expected that 5000 acres of beets will be grown in this county. On account of the dry season, the output of sugar beets will be smaller than usual, but G. K. Kaaf says that the factory at Crockett will run. A. J. Larson of Lodi is the principal grower so far. He says that several hundred acres that he has put in are looking well, and he will plant more as soon as he can irrigate the land.—Lodi Sentinel.

IRRIGATING SAN JOAQUIN LOW LANDS.—Irrigation has secured a better foothold in San Joaquin county within the last few weeks than it had under either of the irrigation systems established with so much cost. And the new systems are comparatively inexpensive ones. All told, nearly 20,000 acres of land will be under irrigation in San Joaquin county within a few weeks. The great bulk of it is in the reclaimed region, where the cost is nominal. It was generally supposed that water could not be run on the island farms from the San Joaquin river without pumping when the river was at so low a stage as it is now, but the necessity caused by the recent drouth resulted in an investigation, and it was ascertained that irrigation was feasible. The reclaimed lands are basin-shaped, being lowest at the center of the tract and highest next to the river bank. Along the levees the water in the river is below the surface of the land, but it can be conducted through a ditch into the lower central portion. On the Woods Brothers' tract a survey showed that it would be necessary to run a canal from Middle river half a mile inland before the

water could be conducted out over the surface of the farm. This canal will be 25 feet wide on the bottom. Near the river it will have 2 1/4 feet of water in it at high tide and 1 1/2 feet at low tide. Sixty horses and fifteen scrapers are now engaged in the work. The irrigation system will be made a permanent one, and for that reason a substantial headgate is being fixed in the levee at the Middle river end of the canal. Most of the irrigation is being done by means of siphons, which conduct the water over the tops of the levees.—Stockton Mail.

San Luis Obispo.

SEEKING PASTURAGE.—The feed for stock in the southern part of the State is so short and of such inferior quality that stockmen are bestirring themselves to meet the emergency by securing pasture lands in other portions of the State. The largest consignment that has left the south pulled out on the Southern Pacific yesterday. The number of cattle in the shipment was between 1000 and 1100 head. They were from the R. T. Buell ranch at Buell flat, coming over the Pacific Coast railway in two trains of sixteen and twenty-one cars respectively. They were transferred through the cattle chutes to the Southern Pacific cars. There were thirty-two big cattle cars in the train that left for the north. Five engines were used in pulling the train up the grade. Mr. Buell has secured pasturage for these cattle at Calistoga. Many other heavy shipments will probably be made within a few days.—San Luis Breeze.

Santa Barbara.

SAVING HORSES.—Messrs. Houck and Holloway of Santa Maria valley are among us gathering up valuable horses to take to Mendocino county for pasturing. Their proposition is to take the horses about May 1st and deliver them between December 1st and 15th next at \$2 per month from the date of taking, paying all expenses of both trips. They are to receive \$2 per head on starting and \$3 more in August and the balance when the horses are returned.—Lompoc Record.

IRRIGATION WATER PETERING OUT.—The water problem is becoming serious. The hot spell has reduced the river's flow by one-third, and several pumping stations find scant supply for a perpetual run. The upper plant on the Robinson tract has ceased night work and only pumps from 6 o'clock in the morning to 6 o'clock in the evening, so that those below may have the balance of the flow. The Salsipuedes is cut off by irrigators and a new plant with a 40 H. P. engine and a 10-inch centrifugal pump is being set up at the ranchita, three miles up the river. With these two drafts on the supply, it is doubtful if a very great flow for use below can be secured. It is a pity that our people had not realized the situation three months ago and started the pumps which would have saved the valley to abundant crops. The most must be made of what we have. Only a few can now receive any benefit from water.—Lompoc Record.

Siskiyou.

GOOD CROP OUTLOOK.—The grain crops look fine in this county at present and are growing nicely, under the influence of late rain showers and cool evenings. Nearly double the usual quantity of grain will be produced this season in Siskiyou, unless a long and severe drouth occurs during May, which is not likely. The winter has been very favorable for fall sown grain and stock raising, hence we look for an exceedingly prosperous year in this county, as grain and beef will command higher prices to insure good profit over cost of railroading to sea coast. Grass crops, especially alfalfa, will be unusually large and excellent, insuring a great abundance of superior hay, to feed beef stock during the next fall and winter months. Considerable of it in pressed packages will no doubt be shipped with profit, loose hay being too bulky for transportation. The fruit crops may also turn out well, as the budding is only just commencing, and therefore escaped the frosts doing so much damage in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys, where the season for trees to blossom is fully six weeks earlier than the mountain regions of Siskiyou. Apples generally escape the coldest snaps, and grow best in cool sections, although it is probable that peaches, cherries, apricots and other fruits will be abundant this year, on account of not getting too early start for being nipped by late frosts.—Yreka Journal.

Solano.

The Starr mills at Vallejo are being extensively repaired and refitted.

Sutter.

CONDITIONS IN SUTTER COUNTY.—The summer is beginning early this year, as the thermometer registered several days this week as high as 90°. With the hot north winds during the past week, and lack of moisture in the ground, the grain has begun to show the effects of the drought; and unless cool weather prevails and occasional showers occur, the yield will be curtailed materially. Barley and wheat are being rushed into maturity far too early and will not fill out in the head to much profit unless checked by cool weather. The effect of the drought is noticed more on the adobe lands and late-sown grain. On sandy soil the summer-fallow grain is doing very well and will make a good yield with any favorable weather. Haying will begin in a few days in some parts of the county, and harvest will be much earlier than usual.—Sutter Farmer

Tulare.

VARIOUS WAYS OF TREATING SQUIRRELS.—John Randall came in to-day and bought 1000 old newspapers, to use in plugging up the squirrel holes on his ranch. Mr. Randall has been experimenting with this remedy for two years with good success, and others have tried the remedy. They take a newspaper, wrap it around their hand and shove the paper funnel into the squirrel hole. It is said a squirrel will not come out through a hole thus plugged up.—Hanford Sentinel.

The newspaper treatment has been tried here, and we have used poisoned wheat and bisulphide of carbon. Each method has its advocates. One man says he strewed the ground with dead squirrels by using a few bits worth of wheat. Another says he tried it, and one or two old patriarchs of the tribe jumped in and stored the grain, robbing the main army of a share, so the result was not as general as was desired. But he used bisulphide of carbon and paralyzed the pests right at their own firesides. He wet little balls of rags in the stuff, rolled them down the holes, stopped up the openings, and no squirrels ever came out to inquire about it.—Tulare Register.

The Tulare county Supervisors are considering an ordinance providing a bounty of 2 cents each for squirrel scalps.

Yolo.

ACTIVITY IN IRRIGATION.—The water of Cache and Putah creeks is now appropriated as it never has been for years past, and many of the enterprising agriculturists of this county are preparing with feverish energy to avail themselves of this source, supplied by Nature, to restore life and vigor to the dying vegetation, and practically to save themselves and children from what must have been a fall and winter of hardships and privations. The apparent ill luck of '98 will be at least a lesson, perchance a bitter one, which may in the future be of great value to farmers and orchardists of this county. They will have learned the necessity of preparation for irrigation in cases of emergency. Throughout the entire county people are preparing to irrigate grain crops and considerable of the sick grain may yet be saved. Where Nature has supplied advantages, the waters of the creeks mentioned will be used through ditches and in many instances pumps will be put into operation drawing water from large wells.—Woodland Mail.

AGRICULTURAL REVIEW.

CALIFORNIA.

Butte.

HEMP A SAFE CROP.—The hemp crop in Butte seems a pretty safe crop, as it is not planted until late, when it would seem as if most danger from frost was over with. It is not so liable to injury as some other crops, and it pays better than most other things that can be grown. A gentleman who is somewhat posted in hemp growing tells us that in this county it requires about one man for each ten acres of hemp produced, so far as labor is concerned.—Marysville Appeal.

Contra Costa.

DRIVERS FOR MILLER & LUX are on their way north with 10,000 cattle that will be pastured on the tule lands east of Antioch. They will be driven to the Webb tract. This land is not under levee and is ordinarily very wet and would be too soft for cattle, but this year there is so little water that it is dry, and the cattle will do well. At present the land is overrun with wild hogs. Last week Richard Uren and a party succeeded in killing and capturing eighteen.—Antioch Ledger.

Fresno.

"A MOVEMENT is on foot in Fresno county," says the Visalia Delta, "to have a real agricultural fair this fall. The wheel of fortune will give way to the country pumpkin. Won't this be a great change?" Remarking upon this statement, the Hanford Journal says: "Yes, it will be a change, for in the past it has been the country pumpkin who has given away his hard-earned cash to the wheel of fortune."

CROP OUTLOOK AT SANGER.—The condition of horticultural matters with reference to the frost is about this: Apricots and almonds throughout the valley have been generally destroyed. Peaches, nectarines and figs have been greatly damaged, but there will probably be almost as much as last year. Of plums, prunes, Bartlett pears and some varieties of apples there will be an abundance. Orange and lemon trees are blooming very profusely, and there will be an immense crop unless we have some more frosts. Our grape vines never looked better and a full crop seems certain. A dry year is here, and there is no use in denying the fact or in trying to fool ourselves. Now we should use our endeavors to overcome its effect. The Herald has faith enough in our people to believe that a way will be found to overcome, in part at least, the ill effects that must follow all insufficient rainfall. Of course, money will be close and hard to get, but we anticipate no trouble in the matter of living. We will know nothing about a short rainfall in a hundred years, and we should not let it worry us now.—Sanger Herald.

A HARD OUTLOOK FOR STOCK.—Unless something at present entirely unforeseen happens, fully 100,000 head of sheep and cattle will die of starvation in this county alone in the next few months. The order of the United States Government revoking for the present the restriction by which cattle and sheep are prohibited from being pastured in the reservations and opening these reservations for such pasturage until further notice will not afford the desired relief. The herdsmen