



March 17, 2017

Ms. Felicia Marcus, Chair
Members of the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100



RE: Unimpaired Flows

Dear Chair Marcus and Members of the Board:

On behalf of the family dairy producer members of the California Dairy Campaign (CDC), we write in opposition to the “unimpaired flow” or any similar approach to water management in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and San Francisco Bay, including the Water Quality Control Plan Process.

According to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) “Mid-Year Review,” 53 dairies went out of operation in the first five months of 2016. The number of dairies going out of business is tracking if not outpacing the worst year in memory, 2009, when 100 dairies closed across California. California dairy farmers are routinely the lowest paid of any in the nation and have been enduring mounting losses since producer prices began to decline in late 2014. The California dairy industry supports 189,000 jobs including 55,000 milk production and processing jobs and the downturn in milk production has and will jeopardize jobs across the state.

It is critical that California dairy farmers have access to reliable water supplies given the ongoing challenges they face with current milk prices that are well below milk production costs. We support alternative solutions to improve water quality and sustain native species including implementation of predation and suppression programs, river and habitat improvements, restructuring of existing river operations among other solutions.

We greatly appreciate your attention in this regard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Augusto".

Joe Augusto
President
California Dairy Campaign