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Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, Ca. 95812-0100

Dear State Water Resource Board Members,

I am a farmer in Stanislaus and Merced Counties, and I farm almonds, walnuts, corn silage and forage. I believe that the proposed Plan Amendment to increase the amount of water (unimpaired flows) to be released to help the fish will be too costly for the amount of benefit and will be devastating to our communities. Our focus should be on new infrastructure as none has been built for decades while our population has increased tremendously. We need to meet the needs of our cities, industries and food production instead of increased flows which haven't proven to help the fish situation. We must develop better fish habitat, and improve spawning beds. Fish hatcheries are a great way to increase fish (salmon) populations and are used in many areas. We need to remove and / or reduce the amount of predator fish which is a huge factor in declining salmon populations.

Increased flows will result in fallowed land and a decreased job market making depressed communities even more disadvantaged with unemployment at its highest and businesses that depend on this income will greatly suffer. The whole process would cause farmers, cities, industries, schools, water districts, counties, and more to rely heavier on groundwater with more pumping and drilling causing a serious overdraft of groundwater which would be at odds with what SGMA wishes to accomplish. Schools might be forced to bring in porta potties for students and staff to use because of the lack of running water for total use which could pose a health risk. Cities, communities, labor, businesses and more will all feel the impact of lost economic output, farm revenue, recreational income, lost labor income and jobs. The timing of the releases will have a negative impact on Modesto, Turlock and Merced Irrigation Districts hydroelectric power generation and income.

Everyone needs to eat and this Plan follows land that could be producing food which is already in short supply nationally and globally. Lets hope that this is not as some say, a conspiracy to send more water to faraway places. Sending our water wealth (to quote the Modesto Arch) somewhere else sends the Wealth with it which would be an unnecessary and devastating water grab. The Water Districts have implemented many conservation projects to modernize and improve their districts. They have been dedicated to science based policies and practices to benefit the environment, agriculture, domestic and recreational users of their products and services.

Our communities are united more than ever on this issue. Continuing on this track could result in this Plan being tied up in courts for decades. I strongly urge you to reject this plan in favor of ideas I have already mentioned, such as improving fish habitat and spawning grounds, eliminating or reducing the number of predator fish, use of fish hatcheries to replenish fish numbers and work with companies like Fish Bio and the Water Districts to correct the problem in a proactive and scientific way.

Thank you for your consideration of this input.

Sincerely yours,



Darrell Cordova

Manager

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