



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry, California

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September 3, 2013

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via electronic mail to: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov



Re: Comment Letter: September 10th Hearing on Central Coast Agricultural Order Files A-2209 (a)-(e)

Dear Members of the State Water Resources Control Board,

The UU Legislative Ministry California engages Unitarian Universalists in California in collaborative ministries on behalf of our values – enhancing human dignity, promoting community equity, and respecting the interdependent web of life. We celebrated the signing into law of AB685 and now turn our attention to its implementation.

Water is a gift of life and creation. We write to thank you for your work to ensure that all Californians can safely drink from the tap, by protecting California's ground and surface water from polluted agricultural runoff.

In order that the human right to “safe, clean, affordable and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking and sanitary purposes” be fully realized in California (AB685 which is now Water Code Section 106.3), our state agencies must commit to its full implementation.

We strongly support the Board's work to develop an Agricultural Order that retains key provisions to protect public health and the environment along the Central Coast.

The human right to water also requires that the public’s right to access meaningful water quality data is protected, that they may be informed of threats or improvements to the water’s impact on community and personal health.

We applaud the requirement to monitor drinking water wells, but question whether the Order requires sufficiently frequent monitoring to detect changes that may threaten public health in shallow drinking water wells.

In order to provide clear and consistent direction, we ask that the Board apply the human right to water, Water Code Section 106.3, to its general orders. With your leadership, we can move forward with more timely and consistent implementation of enforceable regulations, that

California's lowest income rural communities may begin to realize the human right to safe, affordable water.

Thank you for your service to California.

Sincerely,

Rev. Lindi Ramsden
Senior Minister & Executive Director
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry, CA