



State Water Resources Control Board,

I vigorously protest diverting water from the Tuolumne, Stanislaus, and Merced rivers, particularly since you have determined to increase the water flow from these three rivers from February 1 to June 30 each year. These three counties comprise an agriculturally based region that provides food for millions of people, not only in California, but other regions as well.

Your decision to divert **35 percent** of our water during the spring will directly affect water rates for growers as well as residential households. Our three counties already have an average unemployment rate of 16.5 percent (CALIFORNIA EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT-Labor Market Information Division, March 22, 2013).

You even admitted that your proposal would create and "unavoidable and significant" impact. Your action will put even more people out of work and cause a significant increase in water rates that are already high, particularly for lower income families and retired persons, such as myself. To place such a strain on the Central Valley is unconscionable and decidedly **NOT** a responsible decision.

Because of political interests located in Southern California and the Bay Area, you have caved in to demands that will once again deprive the Central Valley of a valuable resource we desperately need to provide food to the masses. Remember that the next time you go to the grocery store and find your grocery bill has once again drastically increased; the blame can be placed on the person you see looking back at you from the mirror.

Your decision to divert water from our three rivers is wrong, wrong, wrong! Do what is right and reverse your decision.

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