



SHANNON PUMP CO.

275 S. HWY 59, P.O. BOX 686 • MERCED, CALIFORNIA 95340
PHONE: (209) 723-3904
FAX: (209) 723-5865.

3/18/2013

State Water Resources Control Board
Sacramento Ca.

Members of the Board

I regret not be able to appear before you today, but I want to thank you for hearing my comments;

My name is Jerry Shannon and along with my wife, son and his wife are the owners of Shannon Pump Company in Merced. Shannon pump services an area within roughly a 30 mile radius of Merced consisting of over fifteen hundred customers. 2014 will be our 70th anniversary, having been started by my father in 1944.

I have worked in the business starting in my high school days 1956 thru 1960 and have continued on return from college in 1965.

I'm most concerned as to the continued ability of agriculture to prosper due to the rapid depletion of underground water. Many of the areas we serve are outside the confines of irrigation districts and depend on ground water.

I would like to make you aware of what I have experience in my 48 years in the pump business.

In an area South of highway 99 west of Livingston it was commonplace in the late sixties early seventies to drill one hundred foot well install fifty horsepower pump for a production of two thousand gallons per minute , today wells are in excess of four hundred deep and pumps in excess of one hundred horsepower are required for equal production.

In the Legrand area east of Merced, North of highway ninety nine in as recent as early nineteen nineties standing water levels were at less than one hundred feet and wells three to four hundred feet deep with pumping levels around one hundred and fifty to two hundred foot deep, today many of these wells are failing and being replaced with wells in the eight hundred foot plus range pumps being required with pumping levels in the three hundred foot range. Several miles east of Legrand well production has dropped to the point where several wells have been drilled to depths of in excess of twelve hundred feet and still only able to produce small amounts of water.

South of Merced in the El Nido area there has been a steady recession of water and pumping levels, today new wells are commonly drilled close to one thousand foot deep in order to get adequate water, east of El Nido, south of highway one-fifty two levels have receded in the past few years and there has been serious subsidence occurring effecting both flood control levees and water convenience to irrigation districts west of the affected areas.

SHANNON PUMP CO.

275 S. HWY 59, P.O. BOX 686 • MERCED, CALIFORNIA 95340
PHONE: (209) 723-3904
FAX: (209) 723-5865

Most of the areas I have made reference to are on the fringes of irrigation districts and can buy water from districts in years of above normal rainfall which has helped to slow down the ground water recession. Cutting back the available water for the irrigation districts will cause these water levels to recede at even a faster rate. Although agriculture has been able to obtain adequate water by drilling deeper wells and installing larger pumps in some areas there is no deeper, we have found deeper either hits bed rock which we are told there is no water below or water so high in salts that it cannot be used. While having seen a rapid decline in water levels I have also witnessed a remarkable improvement in the efficient use of water. In early years it was common place to drill an well, install a pipeline and flood irrigate land, the majority of projects we work on today use either drip or micro irrigation, even what we refer to as row crops, cotton, alfalfa, tomatoes are now utilizing underground drip irrigation, using technology's unheard of not many years ago

Agriculture needs more water, with less surface water available I feel it just a short period of time till thousand of acres will be left fallow for lack of water. This will in turn cost Loss of jobs, hundreds of millions in lost revenue for the owners and related industries that serve the needs of agriculture and will cause a drastic drop in property values and will in turn affect revenue collected in state, and federal taxes from reduced values of the land and profit of these ventures.

Thank you for listening to my comments

Jerry Shannon
President Shannon Pump Company