

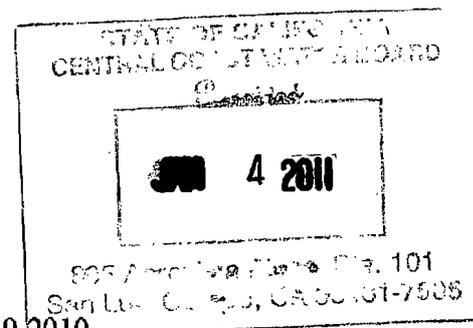
2 pages

January 3, 2011

Mr. Jeffrey Young
Chairman
Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Pl, Ste 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7908

Sent by Fax: 805-543-0397 and email

Re: Request for Public Comment on Draft Agricultural Order 11-19-2010



Dear Chairman Young:

We are writing to provide comments to you on the draft agricultural order of 11-19-2010. In general this draft agricultural order is fatally flawed from its inception in that it ignores the economic impact of its policies on California agriculture, the California economy at large, including employment and earnings, and by necessary extension, the national economy. Furthermore, it fails to address the impact of these proposed restrictions on food supply, food prices, and food safety and security. The draft order should include a section quantifying the following issues:

1. Loss of earnings/employment by agriculture due to reduction in acres planted
2. Loss of earnings/employment in ancillary businesses due to reduction in acres planted
3. Loss of earnings/employment due to reduced incomes/lost jobs of agricultural employees
4. Increased costs to agriculture due to additional compliance measures
5. Reduction in food supply
6. Likely response to reduction in food supply (higher prices or increase in foreign agricultural imports/combo thereof)
7. Impact on food safety and security due to potential increase in food imports

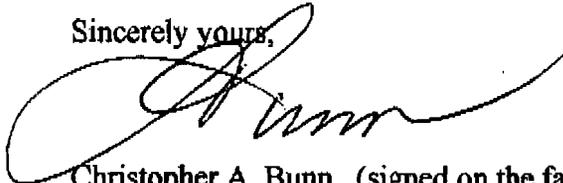
Addressing specific points of the draft agricultural waiver, we note the following areas of grave concern:

1. The "1,000 foot setback of 303(d) listed water bodies" is unwarranted and economically unbearable. This provision does not take into effect the work landowners and growers have done to physically protect water bodies from agriculture, and vice-versa. It would result in the loss of substantial agricultural acreage resulting in damages in earnings, employment, food production and American food security referred to above. It would constitute a legal "taking" that would automatically trigger legal action costing all parties staggeringly large sums of money.

2. The proposed standards are not necessarily based on scientifically proven and objective studies. Any such standards must be the result of studies that have occurred over longer periods of time and that fairly relate current practices of farming to the data observed and gathered. A widespread consensus on what current practices are and what they result in must be the basis of any adopted standards.
3. Contemporary agriculture must not be faulted and therefore regulated based on materials and practices from the past. Any presence of such materials must be separated out from required standards and dealt with as a separate matter from current practices. Public monies, not private monies, must be used to address environmental damages from past generations, and any measures adopted to solve past practices must have a sunset clause.
4. Timelines are unrealistic and unjust. Not only is more time necessary to reach a just and practical resolution of these issues, unlike the current draft, but more time is needed to study these matters to get unquestionable data.

We need a balanced, realistic approach to addressing the water quality issues of the Central Coast region, one that is honestly holistic in recognizing the impact of laws on all parties concerned. This draft agricultural order of 11-19-2010 fails to meet these objectives. We support the Ag Alternative Draft Waiver submitted on December 3, 2010.

Sincerely yours,



Christopher A. Bunn, (signed on the fax)
President

Crown Packing Company