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Celebrating 27

Salinity-1/31/06
Workshop

January 20, 2006

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SWRCB
Executive Ofc.

Selica Potter, Acting Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, California 95812-0100 via e-mail at
commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov.

Subject: **Comment Letter – 1/31/06 BOARD WORKSHOP on Salinity**

Attention of the State Water Resources Control Board to salinity in the Central Valley and the State is critical to the welfare of the people of the State as well as the Central Valley. Thank you for addressing this important issue.

Staff is to be commended for the excellent overview of salinity issues in the Central Valley. A growing activity that impacts water quality is what some call urban agriculture should also be considered. Irrigation of parks, golf courses, school grounds, personal yards and other landscaping produces important social amenities is a risk as well as contributing to soil and water salinization.

During my forty-four year career serving California agriculture, I have observed firsthand the effects of salinity on the land and to the socio-economic conditions of the Central Valley. I have seen farms grow and people prosper only to see wealth and jobs drain away due to salinity impacts. Then observed reclamation and the wealth and jobs return as surface water and drainage were introduced, all to drain away again when discharge of saline drainage water was prohibited.

The impact is significant to the economy of the Central Valley and to the State. Reduced yield and loss of farms result in loss of jobs on and off the farm. Firms like Dellavalle Laboratory that serve agriculture lose revenue as do the people and firms that serve us. The tax base is reduced. The entire economy and quality of life is impacted. Acreage impacted and negative socio-economic impact will continue to grow. The entire community, the entire State is impacted.

As a certified Soil Scientist and Agronomist I know that economic technical solutions are available. The staff report introduces several. What has been lacking is the political will to address and resolve issues and to implement solutions. Concerns of stake holders are important, real and need to be addressed. In valley storage, a temporary and costly measure, will lead more land and water degradation and associated socio-economic impacts. Issues involving discharge to the ocean need study and resolution. Perhaps a cooperative endeavor like the Santa Anna Regional Interceptor that discharges to the Pacific Ocean through the Orange County Wastewater Treatment Plant would serve the State well.

The State water Resources Control Board, the Central Valley Regional Board, and their staffs are to be commended for addressing this important and critical issue. I urge the Board to pursue study of Pacific Ocean discharge alternatives and to resolve stakeholder issues so that appropriate discharge of saline water can be implemented.

Thank you again for addressing the issue and for accepting public input.

N Dellavalle

Nat B. Dellavalle, CPAG/SS
President

Nbd june 05-06 state board 1-06 salinity workshop.doc