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April 1, 2016

State Water Resources Control Board
PO Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you with the deepest concern for our Valley's natural resource, given to us by our God. We, who live and work in this valley, have been good stewards of this precious commodity for years, by building dams to hold water until it's needed for Agricultural fields, families, laborers and for electricity. The counties, in our valley have constructed water ways, such as canals, pipelines and protecting our levies by building them up and caring for them, along our rivers and waterways.

We grew up in Stanislaus County and our parents, grandparents, and great grandparents were all farmers. We are the 4th generation to toil this land and we love that fact. We also are grateful that our children were raised here and their children will be raised here. We live in a place where we work hard and are able to help supply food for ourselves and for others in America and around the world. Without water there will be many of us who will not be able to farm and those that work the fields and canneries during the harvest will be unemployed and unable to feed their families, buy clothing and supplies in our local stores. Our electricity costs will increase and our ground water will be depleted, as many have experienced in 2015 during our drought of almost 5 years.

We have been silent as the EPA and the Water Boards have taxed us, taken the water that we so desperately need, giving us only what you consider to be ample for farming. We are also burdened with many hours of paperwork, forms, surveys and classes, all that are mandatory.

Our opinion is that it's control that you want, control over water you can't make or provide. This "water" that the Water Boards want to control belongs only to the One who makes it, you can't produce it, the only one that can is our God and Savior. He has given us this precious resource so that we can be productive citizens and help others survive from the crops we grow. We, the American citizens need this water so much more than fish or letting this commodity be flushed through the Delta and out to sea.

Many things about this "Bill" is wrong and we pray that you on the Board will consider the Agricultural needs, people that need to feed their families and stores that sell goods to us. We love the rivers, and waterways here in this beautiful productive state of California, that we call home but we implore you to reconsider taking 35% of this water from the Merced, Tuolumne and Stanislaus rivers for environmental purposes.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



George and Annemarie Espinola - Hughson, CA .