

**ORANGE COVE IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

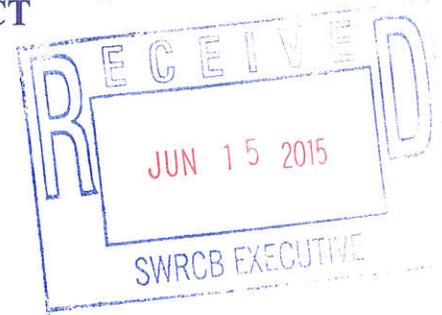
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June 11, 2015

State Water Resources Control Board  
Chairwoman Felicia Marcus, and all Board Members  
P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812  
Fax: 916-341-5620

RE: Sacramento River Temperature Plan

Dear Ms. Marcus:

In this ongoing drought, none among California's citizens are enduring the degree of hardship as that experienced by those in its precious agricultural community. As a matter of fact, California's magnificent water storage and distribution system is now called upon to serve ever-increasing levels of population, greater agricultural acreage and greater natural demands. Under current drought conditions, we must collectively find a way to optimize project operations for an outcome balancing all these needs we hold and that are important. We must collectively adapt to hydrological circumstances and enhance project operational flexibility so that less of a burden is loaded onto those producing food and fiber for the state, the Country and the world.

It seems that as a people we are losing appreciation of this most vital and national interest asset – in short we take for granted that which has always been there. We are fortunate that our collective experience expresses to us and we therefore believe that our food is secure, but it is not. We must strive to keep our food supply secure right now and into the future; this goal must be part of your charge. Losing food security is not an outcome that we can tolerate.

The current drought offers an opportunity for the State Board and all the project operations decision-making entities as well as the affected agricultural community to collaborate and demonstrate reasonable flexibility so that the best is made out of this very bad situation. The knowledge of those in the water user community should be tapped, affording them the opportunity to participate and contribute ideas in pursuit of a balanced solution where no single use suffers disproportionately. This exercise will prepare us to deal with our frankly, daunting future.

As the manager of an irrigation district in the Friant Division, believe me that farmers are already suffering this year. For a second year in a row the district is receiving a 0% allocation when historically, going back to 1950, the district received 100 % of its federally contracted "firm supply" more than 94% of the time. Nestled in the foothills, with limited groundwater supply, farmers are scrambling to survive. Families are going to lose their livelihood this year within this district; huge amounts of permanent trees are already lost and there will be more once the summer hits. Decision makers need to try and put themselves in these farmers' shoes when they ponder and ultimately make decisions that affect good people. The impacts of these decisions are not reversible. Every little bit of water that moves to farms is beneficial.

All I ask is that you please exercise all the discretion available to you and bring logic into the process. Allow participation of all reasonable minds in that process, including farmers and water user representatives. While fishery biology may not be their expertise, they are the best among us at problem solving and adaptive management.

Sincerely,



Fergus Morrissey  
Engineer Manager  
Orange Cove Irrigation District

cc: Jeanine Townsend, Clerk of the Board: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ALL STATE WATER RESOURCE CONTROL BOARD MEMBERS: [Jeanine.townsend@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jeanine.townsend@waterboards.ca.gov)  
Nancy McFadden, Executive Secretary, Office of the Governor: [nancy.mcfadden@gov.ca.gov](mailto:nancy.mcfadden@gov.ca.gov)  
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