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June 8, 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:

We know the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) discovered the water in Shasta Lake is warmer than anticipated when they developed the April Sacramento River temperature and operations plans. Reclamation informed the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) at the June 2 Board meeting of the discovery. Apparently under any circumstances, it will be impossible to meet the temperature requirements of the current plan. Reclamation informed my irrigation district that they are working with National Marine Fisheries Service and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to reformulate the plans for submission to the SWRCB very soon.

As a California family farmer I depend on the coordinated efforts of the State of California and Reclamation for delivery of surface water supplies that allows me to farm and thus provide jobs to our local economy as well as food and fiber for our nation.

I have already invested heavily and have planted crops in reliance on the previous operations plans provided by Reclamation and the fishery agencies and approved by the SWRCB. If at this late date, the Board now adopts a revised plan that significantly reduces water deliveries from the Sacramento River and reduces Delta pumping it will devastate my operation, and the operations of my neighbors, the local wildlife refuges, local cities that rely upon groundwater recharged from our farming operations, and destroy jobs and the economy of the entire central valley.

A plan that results in the elimination of irrigation deliveries this summer will threaten the destruction of all my 750 acres of almonds on my farm alone.

I understand the responsibility the Board feels toward the protection of the Sacramento winter-run salmon, but given that the temperature plan is not viable under the current circumstances and there is unfortunately simply insufficient cold water to accomplish the temperature objectives, we are hopeful the Board will adopt a new plan that maintains the vital summer deliveries as promised by the earlier adopted plans while providing reasonable temperature benefits and maximizing physical solutions in order to protect salmon.

Very Truly Yours,
David Parreira
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