

PORTERVILLE IRRIGATION DISTRICT
SAUCELITO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
TERRA BELLA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

February 18, 2015

Ms. Felicia Marcus, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

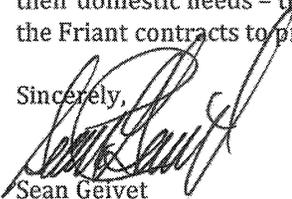
I am Sean Geivet the General Manager of Porterville, Saucelito, and Terra Bella Irrigation Districts. I have managed Terra Bella for almost 17 years and have managed Porterville and Saucelito for the past 9 years. I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Engineering from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. I am writing to you on behalf of the over 2,000 residents and growers in the three districts I proudly work for. It is critical for our survival this year that an adequate surface water supply is provided to us from the San Joaquin River via the Friant Division of the CVP.

As you may know the Friant Division is a "conjunctive use" project. It was designed and built to utilize both surface and groundwater supplies, storing wet year surplus flood waters in the ground for dry year groundwater pumping to supplement short surface water supplies. One of the lessons learned in 2014 is there are 200 or so homes spread across both districts who rely on the surface water supplies provided by the Friant Division contracts to protect from a precipitous fall in the groundwater levels under the districts. Last year we experienced many domestic well failures through out both the Porterville and Saucelito Irrigation Districts due to quickly falling groundwater levels, some wells lost up to 1 foot of elevation per week for many weeks in a row.

The conjunctive use design of the Friant Division never envisioned a year when no surface water would be delivered through the Friant-Kern Canal. After experiencing the 2014 water season we now understand why; there is not enough instantaneous groundwater supply to sustain the demands of the entire Friant Division on the eastside of the south San Joaquin Valley, including Public Health and Safety, crop irrigation and animal health and safety. It important to realize that about 70% of the Friant Division acreage is planted in permanent plantings like trees and vines that will die without water, so our irrigation demands cannot simply be cut back. Our growers can't just fallow orchards for a year; our investments rely on a reliable supply of surface water albeit varying in quantity between dry and wet years.

Therefore, we respectfully request that a small Friant Division Class 1 allocation be made to protect the Public Health and Safety needs of our people who rely on the groundwater for their domestic needs - the same groundwater that relies on the surface water provided by the Friant contracts to protect it from a dangerous and precipitous drop in elevation.

Sincerely,



Sean Geivet
General Manager
PID, SID, & TBID