
From: darrick@thebdhgroup.com [<mailto:darrick@thebdhgroup.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2015 9:11 AM

To: Townsend, Jeanine@Waterboards

Subject: Water Issues for California

Felicia Marcus, Chair SWRCB

Dear Felicia,

I am a farmer in the Cantua Creek and Coalinga area with 18 full time (in 2012 we had 45 employees). We grow row crops like cotton, tomatoes, and garlic. We also have permanent crops like almonds and pistachios. Over the past two years we have received a 0% allocation of our surface water and I feel during these tough times, we all should share in the cutbacks and pull for each other. I can't tell you how frustrating it is when I hear farmers use 80% of all water and almonds take all the water. I have not had any water in two years and have had to layoff over 50% of my work force and fallow 60% of my ground; I feel I am more than pulling my weight.

I do not want to make this political, but I want a grand bargain and a compromise from all people. I am a fair minded person and do not want 100% of my water at the expense of the environment, but I also do not want 0% of my water at the expenses of people and farms. Everybody needs to take a deep breath, and work out a solution for the greater good of California. If not, the Central Valley will look a lot different and all the Bay Area and So Cal people will have eat fruits, vegetables and nuts from other places, if they can find the quality and safe food that we provide.

Thank you for listening.

Darrick J. Walker

B & D Walker Farms

W4 Ranches