O'Banion Ranches
P.O. Box 127
Dos Palos, CA 93620

April 10, 2015

State Water Resources Control Board
Mr. Tom Howard
P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812
Fax: 916-341-5620

Dear Mr. Howard:

As the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) moves forward in reviewing the Sacramento River Temperature Control Plans as submitted by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) relating to the operations of the Central Valley Project, I would like to comment as follows.

As a family farmer in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley, I rely on the coordinated efforts of the State of California and Reclamation to deliver a surface water supply that allows me to farm and thus provide jobs to our local economy as well as food and fiber for our nation.

I understand that the State is going through a tough hydrologic drought, but at the same time our elected and appointed officials must make sound and logical decisions based on the facts in front of them. I have made operational, planting and cropping decisions based on the Bureau's monthly forecasts. But, if the Board adopts a temperature plan that now reduces Delta pumping to zero from May through August it will devastate and bankrupt my operation and the economy of the entire central valley.

It is imperative that the Board give full consideration and approval of Reclamation's preferred CVP operations plan related to cold water management, Shasta releases, Delta pumping and the corresponding water allocations to various contractors. I understand the responsibility that the Board feels it has towards protection of the Winter Run Salmon as part of the operations plan. I think Reclamation has done a thorough job in putting forth a plan that reasonably protects fish while at the same time allocating water to various entities that allows food to be grown and the economy to survive through another tough year.

Reclamation has the full support of water districts and landowners up and down the state. To get through this year, Reclamation's proposal will allow some flexibility in the system for Municipal and Agricultural Districts in order to convey water for the benefit of all. I hope you can convince your board and the National Marine Fisheries Service to stand with us in a united front.

Sincerely,

James E. O'Banion
Owner