
From: John Matthiessen <user@votervoice.net>
Sent: Saturday, June 13, 2015 11:48 AM
To: Marcus, Felicia@Waterboards
Subject: Reinstate the Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan

Dear Chair Marcus,

I am first generation citrus grower who began farming citrus 30 years ago with the purchase of a 20 acre orange grove in Porterville. Since 1985, my farming interests have expanded with the acquisition of land in the Lindsay Strathmore Irrigation District, Lindmore Irrigation District, Stone Corral Irrigation District and the Alta Irrigation District. I am keenly aware of the dire water situation in all irrigation districts- especially Friant districts. I have been forced to abandon productive and profitable acreage due to lack of surface water. I believe that much of the damage is man made - a result of the unintended consequences of bad policy. It is critically important that the State Water Resources Control Board lift its suspension of the Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan. The Plan was agreed to in early May and farmers throughout the Central Valley are counting on that water for survival.

Agriculture in California is in peril. Where there were once communities surrounded by productive Ag land, there are now "dead zones." Land is being fallowed, permanent crops are being bulldozed, people are losing their jobs, and food bank lines are longer than they have ever been. Is this your California?

Farmers understand the need to protect our state's fish species, but in a situation as dire as the current drought, the water needs of tens of thousands of human beings matter as well.

We simply cannot continue to absorb significantly more water supply losses without severe impacts to people and communities. In today's drought conditions, every last drop of water counts. There is no room for politics. This Plan can provide the water agriculture and communities desperately need.

We need water. We need your help.

Sincerely,

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