

RSS

Victor Rosasco
1708 Woodsbro Road
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May 21, 2015

STATE WATER RESOURCES
CONTROL BOARD

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DIV OF WATER RIGHTS
SACRAMENTO

Rich Satkowski
Bay Delta Program
Division of Water Rights
State Water Resource Control Board

Good Morning Sir,

This letter is regarding the SWRCB meeting held May 20, 2015 concerning the TUCP orders. My name is Victor Rosasco I live on Robert's Island in the San Joaquin River Delta just west of Stockton. These last few years the State has been trying to monitor all water delta farmers take out of the river and in my immediate area, trying to stop diversions from Middle River to irrigate adjacent farmland. Supposedly the monitoring is to better allocate California's water supply. If true that may be a good thing but to try to stop farmers from using water in a river adjacent to their land is not right. You may say that they don't have pre 1914 riparian rights, and in some cases it may be true, but the fact that the land being irrigated is next to the water source should preclude taking that water someplace else. In the California Delta water is not wasted, it is applied to fields by gravity, the excess being pumped back to the river. Any water taken from Delta users, what didn't evaporate in transit, would be pumped 300 miles away and be used to irrigate unsustainable crops in a desert area. There are no polite terms to describe this scenario, it defies logic as the ground in the Delta is some of the most fertile on earth and where the water is headed for is a desert.

In short, this drought is hard on everyone but lessons could be learned from it. It provides a perfect window to the problems of over-allocation of California's water that exist today. Hopefully lasting decisions made during this drought won't be influenced by wealthy and politically influential groups as in the past. (An example of this is the approval of water transfers through the Delta which are no better than excess pumping as far as damage to fish stocks go). What happened to the original guidelines for the Central Valley Water Project? "ONLY EXCESS WATER IN WET YEARS FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF IRRIGATION OF NON-PERMANENT CROPS." This has been convoluted to "Whomever has the most political influence, the biggest propaganda machine and the most money can get what water they want and use it how they want."

Neither do I understand how people cannot realize that fish need water to survive. Minimum flows for anadromous fish need to be cast in stone. Our salmon stocks are on life support because we have turned their rivers into water diversion channels. In the last few years I have witnessed in late summer southern California reservoirs full, while ours

are near empty. It seems that our state could retain enough water to at least provide cold enough water for fish hatcheries to operate and propagate the next year's fish stocks.

Too much water is currently being diverted from the Delta, period. Water in California needs to be allocated with the environment, cities and farmers treated as equal players. If this doesn't happen the Delta will follow the fate of Owens Lake and the Great Tulare Lake and where are they now?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victor Rosas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.