
From: Kevin Olds <kolds29@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 25, 2018 2:42 PM
To: LSJR-SD-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov; WQCP1Comments
Subject: taking more water from our rivers is not the answer!

Good afternoon,

My name is Kevin Olds and I live in Merced County. I live out in the country side just 7 miles from the city of Merced. I operate a hydroponic greenhouse where I grow leafy greens and tomatoes. I use a re-circulation for my leafy greens, which enables me to use 1/5 the water that typical field grown lettuce uses. My water source is an aquifer that is fed from the run off from the near by Sierra Nevada mountains. The amount of food I can produce on such small area is incredible! I produced over 1.28 tons of tomatoes and 2,333 head of greens. I believe I am an efficient user of this precious resource.

What I am concerned about is the plan by the Water Board to divert more water away from my area to help fish, which is not the answer to that particular issue. The real issue to save what water is provided from winter storms and use it efficiently. I know the farmers in this state are growing more food on less water than in the past, but to continually reducing water to the growing areas and cities of the central valley is not best approach. Growing our own food is better than getting from sources that are not under the same government restrictions that we produce in California.

We need to sit down and think outside the box and begin to tap into ideas that maybe haven't been cost effective in the past.

Please reconsider your plan and not penalize one region of California. Give our farmers and citizens a chance to grow food and live like all Californians that live in areas not impacted by drastic moves of government!

Thank you,
Kevin Olds
Le Grand, CA