



To: The California State Water Board

Subject: Mandatory Water Cut Backs

I respectfully submit the following comments in the hopes that you will consider them when making decisions regarding asking citizens to cut back on their water use.

I am a retired plumber and now have my own business specializing in backflow installation and testing. I am certified by the American Water Works Association (AWWA) to test and repair backflow devices and I also have a California C-36 (plumbing) contractor's license.

Having worked in the industry for some 30 years, I am well aware of the severity of the current water shortage. I understand that everyone must do their part to conserve water wherever they can. I live in the central valley near Modesto. Listening to the conversations around me, it seems that a lot of people are blaming our water shortage on the fact that we send water to Southern California. I am not one of those people. However, I drive up and down the valley on a daily basis for my work and I am totally disgusted with the amount of acreage being turned from what has been cattle land for the last 200 years to almond and walnut orchards, I am not referring to small farmers planting 10 acres of trees. These are huge Mega Corporations being funded by wealthy investors like Trinitas. I understand that farming is a huge part of our economy in this state, but, if we are going to co-exist with them, they also have to be part of the solution. I listen to all the farmers complain how they are not getting enough water, but looking at the water situation in this state for the long term, we must determine what kind of farming is most beneficial to California as a state.