

3-14-17

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To the Board

Concerning the Unimpaired flow proposal.

I f any of you board members have ever witnessed hunger in people- especially children - we would not even be considering this river proposal. Simply travel to a 3<sup>rd</sup> world country and see the horrible ravages of hunger. I implore you to think of those people whom food is a luxury and unavailable. If any of you have some Compassion <sup>or</sup> sense of caring for others - you would be embarassed to even consider this "radical proposal."

You must think about the most basic of needs to survive and have food before we squander our valuable river water. The world's demand for food will double by 2050 - based on population growth and rising incomes. How will we double our food production with less water? We are all truly blessed to live in a Country where food is affordable and a second thought. Yet 1 out of 5 kids still go to bed hungry each day. <sup>in the USA.</sup>

My family has owned a Dairy farm for 71 years - producing wholesome milk. This milk can and is dehydrated and shipped through out the world. We don't milk cows because its profitable or lucrative. We feel obligated and called to help feed a hungry world.

We live and farm along the Tule River - near Modesto.

During the summer months corn is grown to help feed our cows.

This requires irrigation water - both from the river and Modesto Irrigation District. Without adequate water - corn can not be grown and it would be difficult to feed the cows. We simply can't be subject to "drought-like-condition" due to this proposal. Water must be captured and stored in Don Pedro reservoir to provide water in the summer. (Very simple process) ~~the~~  
Not enough water = not enough feed grown = less food for people

We know that low flow in the summer means difficulty pumping out of the Tule River - very frustrating to manage irrigating.

Let's all work together and do something productive to come up with better solutions to capture more water when plentiful. We must have enough water to keep our crops alive. Ground water pumping is not practical in our area, nor is it sustainable. Only surface water is the long term solution.

We as all people can do better to solve some of these issues by working with each other. We are compelled to grow food for other hungry people in other countries. Let's use our gift of water to do this.

Please reconsider your proposal - We are all in this together. Let's be responsible so that others may simply live.

Lives depend on this.

Sincerely David Couchman

# World facing largest humanitarian crisis since U.N.'s founding

BY EDITH M. LEDERER  
The Associated Press

**UNITED NATIONS** The world faces the largest humanitarian crisis since the United Nations was founded in 1945 with more than 20 million people in four countries facing starvation and famine, the U.N. humanitarian chief said Friday.

Stephen O'Brien told the U.N. Security Council that "without collective and coordinated global efforts, people will simply starve to death" and "many more will suffer and die from disease." He urged an immediate injection of funds for Yemen, South Sudan, Somalia and northeast Nigeria plus "safe and unimpeded access for humanitarian aid "to avert a catastrophe."



MOHAMED SHEIKH NUR: The Associated Press  
An acutely malnourished child whose family fled drought in Somalia receives care in Mogadishu on Saturday.

"To be precise," O'Brien said, "we need \$4.4 billion by July." Without a major infusion of money, he said, children will be stunted by severe malnutrition and won't be able to go to school, gains in economic development will be reversed, and "livelihoods, futures and hope will be lost."

U.N. and food organizations define famine as when more than 30 percent of children under age 5 suffer from acute malnutrition and mortality rates are two or more deaths per 10,000 people every day, among other criteria. **Yemen:** O'Brien said the

largest humanitarian crisis is in Yemen where two-thirds of the population—18.8 million people—need aid and more than 7 million people are hungry and don't know where their next meal will come from.

**South Sudan:** The U.N. humanitarian chief also visited South Sudan, the world's newest nation which has been ravaged by a three-year civil war, and said "the situation is worse than it has ever been." O'Brien said more than 7.5 million people need aid.

**Somalia:** In Somalia, more than half the population—6.2 million people—need humanitarian assistance and protection, including 2.9 million who are at risk of famine and require immediate help "to save or sustain their lives."

**Nigeria:** In northeast Nigeria, a seven-year uprising by the Islamic extremist group Boko Haram has killed more than 20,000 people and driven 2.6 million from their homes. A U.N. humanitarian coordinator said last month that malnutrition in the northeast is so pronounced that some communities have lost all of their toddlers.