



commentletters

From: Ray Azevedo <raya@imequipment.com>
Date: Thursday, October 13, 2016 at 1:23 PM
To: DeeDee D'Adamo <dorene.dadamo@waterboards.ca.gov>
Subject: Water

Dorene:

It has come to our attention that good faith efforts of water districts, and legislators in our state have been ignored by your board in their efforts to secure water for communities and agriculture in the Bay-Delta region. The actions of the board have served to frustrate local water officials who are held responsible to deliver clean and reliable water supplies to both residents and farming operations up and down the Central Valley of California. As business owners whose future depends on the health of the agricultural marketplace, we are simply appalled at the utter lack of fairness, transparency, and reciprocity that the SWRCB has demonstrated in their latest report. The report calls for unimpaired flows that are even higher than the unsustainable 35% that the SWRCB imposed in 2012. This state can NEVER recover from drought conditions if the water dedicated to fisheries continues to increase, while residents and farmers lose their livelihood and their standard of living. Water that is desperately needed to grow food, and secure the safety our valley residents continues to stream to the ocean. This SWRCB has a responsibility to provide water resources to ALL CALIFORNIANS. The board has TALKED about good faith negotiations and about meeting the needs of all stakeholders, but its recent unilateral actions and unwillingness to even respond to any stakeholder (other than the environmental lobby) is not only evident, but severely troubling.

The Central Valley of California has fed the nation and the world for generations. Agriculture is the state's primary GDP driver. This said, we are urging a fair, even-handed allocation of water resources that includes the needs of municipal, agricultural and environmental participants. This board works for the people of California, and we insist that our government serve the needs of its people. The proposal for flows in the current report will economically cripple this state, and put nearly a million California residents at risk. We demand that the SWRCB abandon their plan to impose unrealistic and one sided water policy, and respond to stakeholders in local jurisdictions who have already demonstrated their willingness to compromise. The future of our state depends on our ability to treat all parties with fairness and dignity.

Regards
Ray Azevedo