



14315 W. Barstow Ave.
Kerman, CA 93630

Saturday, May 10, 2014

State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, Ca 95812-0100

Re: Dual Irrigation Systems

Dear Members of the State Water Resources Control Board,

As you know California, specifically California's agriculture, is having severe water problems. And while everyone has their own solution, I would like to offer mine.

I have two 30 acre vineyards, both of which are irrigated via drip systems with moisture tensiometers to monitor soil moisture so as to not give the vines more water than they need. However, most farmers still flood irrigate and usually over irrigate even when we are in a drought pattern like we are in now. Both systems, Drip and Flood irrigation systems have advantages and disadvantages. Drip systems use much less water and fertilizer than flood irrigation systems. However, during wet years, flood irrigation systems helps to replenish our underground aquifers and reduces pumping underground water when surface water is available. Drip systems also help reduce the fertilizers we use thus help lessen the nitrates we are finding in our underground water.

My suggestion would be to encourage all farmers, through tax breaks, grants and other incentives, to implement "Dual Irrigation Systems" on all permanent crops. Farmers could then utilize Drip Systems during drought years and Flood Irrigate during wet years. This would allow us to replenish our underground aquifers during wet years and not deplete the aquifers as rapidly during drought years.

Ultimately, Education and Conservation along with new and old irrigation technologies may well be the key in solving our water problems.

Sincerely,



Jerry Doyel

559-269-2174

jdoyel@kermantel.net

P.S. A response would be appreciated.