



# SAN JOAQUIN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

MEETING TODAY'S CHALLENGES / PLANNING FOR TOMORROW

06/07/06 Bmtg Item  
Scott River Watershed  
Deadline: May 10, 2006

May 10, 2006

By Facsimile: (916) 341-5620

By electronic mail: [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov)



State Water Resources Control Board  
Attn.: Song Her, Clerk of the Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Comment Letter – Sediment and Temperature TMDL in the Scott River Watershed

Dear Ms. Her:

The San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation is a voluntary organization that represents over 6,000 members in San Joaquin County. Our members are dependent upon water as a valuable resource that not only provides agricultural jobs to our economy, but also is essential for the production of nearly \$1.6 billion dollars worth of agricultural products produced here in San Joaquin County and shipped all over the world.

The San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation opposes any action by the State Water Resources Control Board to try to adjust the water rights of farmers and ranchers in the Scott River Watershed in order to meet temperature goals that are the subject of the Scott River TMDL for Temperature and Sediment. If you undermine the Scott River water rights, we can only anticipate that you will be attacking water rights elsewhere in the state next.

According to reports of the Water Board's prior workshop on this matter, the reason that the Water Board is considering this action is due to its interpretation of Justice Robie's decision of February 9, 2006, dealing with the Bay Delta Proceeding. That case dealt with the unique circumstances of the San Francisco Bay Delta, and the permitting and operations of the State and Federal Water Projects, and has no application to the Scott River TMDL or any other TMDL. In particular, we are unaware of any flow objectives being established outside of the Bay Delta, and the Robie decision imposes no obligation on the State Water Board or Regional Water Boards to establish them, or to implement them through water right decisions if they were established. We also doubt the Water Board's authority to impose a flow standard or adjust water rights in order to implement the federal requirements of a TMDL.

Cooperative conservation efforts show great success in achieving water quality objectives, in the Scott River and throughout California, and there is no reason to undercut the good faith efforts of farmers and ranchers by attacking their livelihood, which is dependant on their water rights.

We ask that you take into consideration the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation's strong opposition to this action, and ask that you refrain from adjusting the water rights of farmers and ranchers in the Scott River Watershed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Robinson", written in a cursive style.

Mike Robinson  
President

cc: Tony Francois, California Farm Bureau Federation