

Comment's,

By far this approach is most appreciated by the Ag Community especially the sustainable farming community. As a true "small family farmer" my personal water conservation goals set by self implementation over 7 years ago exceed these slight mandatory measures herewith set out by the Governor's Office. In most farmer circles we have been accustomed to following the mantra that "something is better than nothing", but in these trying times it seems that we all deserve a slap in the face in order to realize that we are 10-20 years behind the self correcting bubble and nature will take it's own corrective actions even if we do not.

About 20 to 30 years ago the central valley farming community (some members with desire to preserve a rapidly depleting way of life) choose to utilize progressive water conservation tools and techniques. These changes surely (seeing with 20/20 vision hindsight) added to the impact of drying our collective soils to a point that help exacerbate the effects of the drought as one of the "man made pieces" that are causing such a sever tide of dry period and this dry land mass made up of almost if not more than 400,000 acres of lands taken out of production. The drip, and micro sprinkler systems, the idled land and the plumbing of concrete lined water delivery ditches and underground pipelines has become a noticeable part of that continued causation of keeping the high pressure fronts in place that prevent the pacific storms from coming into the influence of the central valley and Kern County.

Unlike our forefathers who had enough insight to enter into and back construction of one of the most progressive water delivery systems known to man at the time, we as second and third generation heirs to what was built with the fortunes that were made from that system failed in our care and custody to the effected part of the population that would see great suffering because of our lack of impious and mismanagement of time and floundered assets. I was one of the "poor boys" of that failed system, and I saw my grandparents and my uncles loose as did I productive and self sustaining farm lands in the Fresno County area. But more importantly ! I visualized long ago in my youth the potential for regret if the parties in control did not look past their noes's to design and envelop new negotiations for future needs both political and sustaining withing the mass voting public mindset's. All I could do effectively on my own was to try and implement my own strategy to configure a safeguard to access a permanent water supply and then become a steady student of that water which would teach me how to withdraw it and farm with it using conservative methods, that would still allow for a production of food and fiber enough not only to feed others but to also keep myself and small family in a business model that could survive years like these.

But regardless of my many efforts and years of sustaining low pumping volumes and night irrigation techniques along with stressing my plants to a point that might subject them to flushing (shedding crops) my efforts seem to have been in vain because my corporate farming neighbor decided that they have a corporate farming model that fits a greater need fed from greed, and thus have managed to almost shrink the water table in our area to depth's that exceed our economic model threshold. Therefore regardless of doing all the right things for all the right reasons the hogs that take and devious everything in their path at all cost's still win at the end of the day because they are the ones that ultimately kept their eye on the prize or the golden ring.... Their models provide money and resources to race the other fat water hogs to the bottom

of the hole until every last drop is devoured leaving nothing behind so that they do not miss out on their self indulgence life style.

Now it's just a matter of time before we loose all that we have worked for and sacrificed for throughout the past 50-150 years of generational farming (small family farmers) not only to just get out of the way of the fat cats but also the utility company's, oil company's, the government and the new found valley wealth water sellers. Farmers who profit from water sales by selling to non-farming entities should be stopped in their tracks. How does a government justify allowing a farm subsidized by the tax paying voters to pump, and sell allocated water supplies to non-farm users when those corporate farming entities participated in tax payer subsidized programs most often to allow them to position themselves (as was the intended purpose when they cashed those subsidy checks) in a manner respective of growing a sustainable food and fiber supply chain for the hungry people of the earth. How can an "advantaged/disadvantaged" (farmer/water seller) justify in their own mind do it at all ? is beyond my ability to comprehend, especially in these times of severe drought when that water could go a long way for those of us small family sustainable farmers who can continue to grow a cost effective product while conserving the natural resource. My plea to the State Water Board would be to initiate an "effective immediately" moratorium on any water sales where the seller of that water is transferring or diverting waters away from the heart of the local farming community's and outlying smaller unincorporated residential communities. Too allow a party to pump outside a district that is already in a water strapped configuration is just simply unconscionable .

I also have an issue with the Hotels and Motels across the state that can just simply allow their guest's to take 3 hour showers and use water (under the guise of good faith efforts that they will automatically conserve); without first forcing implementation of rationing supplies to these systems by allowing a moderate amount of water to be allowed with the duration of the stay, but any usage above and beyond that amount should be done with a "water drought fine" call it a "mitigation fee". I see car washes still open for business and washing cars with water instead of converting to water-less methods (which are available) in many markets at least disallowing more that a 1/2 gallon of water per vehicle, which could be monitored by tracking their daily volume by against their daily meter use. There are many many way's that we "water conservation" farmers have seen that many could implement, but still fail to not only implement but still refuse to see the importance of conserving water..... ? So when we see these mandates come down the pipeline that include us "water conservatives" it's very frustrating that Brown is not actually doing more to plug the leaks ! He is too old and too slow for this state ! we need action and we needed it yesterday !

Thank You for giving me time to comment throughout this process !

Keith Freitas, A Small Family Lemon Farmer from Fresno California

--

K.A. Freitas, CEO
Sea Pine Ventures, Inc.
dba, Piedra Citrus Partners
1305 bullard Ste. # 3
Fresno, Ca. 93722
Cell: (559) 286-1320
<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/keith-freitas/2a/7b6/5b4/>
Gmail: mykfed@gmail.com

Blessings and Abundance

The Drought ! ????? If any Does the State actually think that \$ 25.00 fines will create this conservation vacuum that will effect the negative impacts of 5000 new deep/large circumference Ag. wells will cause. The "black hole" cone of depression that these "water chaser's' will cause will be mostly irreversible. A "new Ag Well" New Development Moratorium must be a part of this emergency declaration otherwise it is just like putting a patch on a 80% 3rd degree burned body No measurable good will come of it.

I do not want to see pumping restrictions and emergency moratorium's more than anyone else ! BUT Necessity is truly the mother of invention.... and maybe we need this real wake up call to arm's from the corporate community to create solutions to this serious issue. Desalinization and treating waste water is the ultimate answer to a sustained water mean ! In addition to storage and increased ground water recharge in wet event's ? The newest technology confirms that during wet event's we can actually flood almond orchards over with 4 acre feet of water and raisin grapes with 7 acre feet of water and create immediate recharge basin's by building levee's around larger blocks of these crops. With an estimated 500,000 acres of these crops State Wide we could effectively create a ground water recharge with enough volume of water to sustain the entire demand for 6 to 10 year dry periods.

Why are we not using these "out of the box" options to get a hold and stop the hemorrhage ?

--

K.A. Freitas, CEO
Sea Pine Ventures, Inc.
dba, Piedra Citrus Partners
1305 bullard Ste. # 3
Fresno, Ca. 93722
Cell: (559) 286-1320
<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/keith-freitas/2a/7b6/5b4/>
Gmail: mykfed@gmail.com

Blessings and Abundance