

June 30, 2014

State Water Resources Control Board
Clerk to the Board
Post Office Box 100 Sacramento, CA 95812-0100
commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov



SUBJECT: 7/1-2/14 BOARD MEETING Agenda Item #5

Consideration of a proposed Resolution regarding drought related emergency regulations for curtailment of diversions to protect senior water rights.

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Kenneth Trevaskis and I am a grower in Patterson Irrigation District, a California irrigation district that holds pre-1914 water rights on the San Joaquin River. I operate and have been farming in the Patterson area for 5 years but have lived in Patterson for 22 yrs.

Our crop include Almonds just planted 4 yrs ago

I am following the State Board workshop items regarding the curtailment of senior water rights holders on the San Joaquin River and am deeply concerned about the possibility of curtailment and what that will mean to my farm and our community. Based on the coordination occurring between water rights holders on the San Joaquin River system, we believe curtailments should not be issued for 2014. We have been aware of the severity of the drought and have made significant changes to our operations to account for some water supply shortfalls in 2014, including installing micro irrigation system to better manage our water usage. Still, the issuance of curtailments will have a major impact to our operations including making it through the season till harvest. This will be our first year to harvest and have invested a lot of time and money into our almond orchard. We started farming greatly due to the senior water rights afforded to this land and felt it would be a good investment. But now that the state is challenging our rights that have been in law since 1914, we face the fact that we will lose everything we have invested. At our age and considering the fact that my wife Audrey is permanently disabled, we will not be able to make ends meet and my stand to lose our home & our farm.

I implore you to consider the additional and potentially long-lasting economic impacts that will result from senior water rights curtailments in a year that is already fraught with water supply shortages. We also ask that you consider the coordinated efforts already undertaken by senior rights holders to assure that there will be no injury. I urge the State Board to not issue curtailments to senior water rights holders on the San Joaquin River.

Sincerely,
Kenneth & Audrey Trevaskis
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Patterson, Ca 95363