

To: California Water Board
RE: 7/1 – 2/14 Board Meeting ITEM No. 5



My family is a grower in the Patterson Irrigation District, a California irrigation district that holds pre 1914 senior water rights on the San Joaquin River. We moved to Patterson ten years ago and purchased a small family farm consisting of 50 acres where we could raise our children and support ourselves from growing almonds. We specifically chose Patterson and paid a premium for our property because our realtor stressed to us that having senior pre 1914 water rights on the San Joaquin River as a source of water to irrigate our land was worth the premium. After moving to Patterson we developed our orchard and have invested a meaningful portion of our savings in our farming activities.

I have been following the State Board workshops regarding the possible curtailment of senior water rights holders on the San Joaquin River and am deeply concerned about the possibility of curtailment and what it will mean for my family, my neighbors and for our community. We are well aware of the drought and have made significant expenditures to conserve water through the installation of micro and drip irrigation systems that were installed at a considerable cost to us. In addition under the direction of our irrigation district we have severely cut back on our irrigation in an effort to “do our part”. Although our efforts are stressing our trees which will have a meaningful impact on this year’s crop we believe they will be kept alive for hopefully a better harvest next year. However, if you curtail our ability to pump water from the San Joaquin River it will have a devastating economic impact on our orchard and on my ability to support my family.

I implore you to consider the additional and potentially long term economic impact that will result from senior water rights curtailments in a year that is already fraught with water supply shortages. My family works hard everyday from dawn to dusk, we pay our taxes, we pay our bills and we support our family. We hope you will give us a chance to continue being a contributor to our State and to our country.

Very truly yours,

Cal Andre