

Robert Granelli
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State Water Resources Control Board
Clerk to the Board
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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 Robert Granelli and I am a grower with property in Patterson Irrigation District, a California irrigation district that holds pre-1914 water rights on the San Joaquin River. My family has been farming in the Patterson area for 30 years. We have grown apricots and cherries in the Patterson area for many years.

I have been 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 irrigating with less frequency and ensuring our sprinkler systems are operating at optimum efficiency. We also plan to end irrigating our orchards earlier than usual this fall. Still, the issuance of curtailments will have a major impact on us. Since we only grow permanent crops, the loss of our irrigation water due to state curtailments will result in significant damage to our orchard through loss of trees which will take years to recover.

We farm in the Patterson area largely because of the senior water rights afforded to this land. Now the State of California is challenging these rights which provide so much value and reliability to my family's farm and livelihood. The actions you are considering will have huge implications on our family farm this year, and for generations of farmers in our area to come.

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 Yours,