

February 18, 2015

My name is Lucille Demetriff, I'm a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation farmer. I grew up in Kerman, my father and grand father were raisin farmers.

My husband and I farm in Porterville Ca., we grow prunes, which are a tree crop. They are a permanent planting which need 6 to 7 irrigation a season depending on the rain. We need enough water to keep the trees alive until we get rains again.

We farm on the east side of the valley and receive our water from the Friant Kern Canel. We have less then 200 areas. Friant is made up of many small farms.

Many of the farmers are having to put in new wells and depending on the area that they live in, their domestic wells have gone dry besides their ag wells. At a minimum we need 3 acre feet of water to produce a crop, and all the farmers need water to keep their trees alive, as of now this year we are getting no surface water NOTHING, from the district or our well.

We started talking to well diggers last June, our ag well ran out of water in July 2014, we had to buy expensive water from Saucelito Irrigation District in Porterville to finish producing our crop, and put moisture in the ground after we finished harvesting. During a normal crop year we need 6 to 7 irrigations. Normally we pay \$65.00 an acre foot for water, last year 2014 we paid \$1200.00 per acre foot.

We are on 4 different well diggers list since last July. We were told last July that they would get to us in February or March of this year. We keep calling the well diggers , most of the time they do NOT answer our calls.

Last week my husband called 2 of the companies, instead of March of this year, they told my husband May or June.

Where do we get water to produce a crop?

Now our domestic well is running dry, we only have 5 feet of water left. Last fall we put in a 5000 gallon tank so we would have water for the house. We are careful with the water that we have.

We need surface water NOW.

With all the water going out into the ocean; if we had 2 acre feet per acre for the farmers, they would be pumping less water from the underground and depleting the underground.

Thank you

*Lucille Demetriff*