



# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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March 11, 2014

Michael Buckman, Senior Environmental Scientist  
Hearing Unit Chief, Division of Water Rights  
California State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 2000  
Sacramento CA 95812-2000

[michaelbuckman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:michaelbuckman@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Re: Objection to the Temporary Urgency Change Order for the Central Valley and State Water Project in actions taken January 31, 2014**

Dear Mr. Buckman:

This letter is in objection to the actions taken on January 31, 2014, when the Executive Director of the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) issued an order approving additional changes to the Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) filed by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). These modifications, which include revisions to the Water Board's interpretation of the allowable uses of water pumped under the health and safety export provisions, will have a negative impact on our agricultural economy, the environment and the health of the groundwater basins within our county.


While we fully recognize that the State of California is experiencing severe drought conditions, we do not agree with the interpretation by the Water Board regarding the amount of upstream water that needs to be preserved for "Public Health and Safety". The Water Board is anticipating taking additional water from upstream users with senior water rights held under California law, many of which are located within our county. Any action taken regarding curtailment of water deliveries above the amount allowed under current contracts with the State and federal projects will have a direct impact on our economy, the environment and the health of the groundwater basin.

Curtailment of surface water within Butte County will force many farmers within our county to fallow their land or convert to the use of groundwater, both of which have the potential to devastate our local agricultural economy and impact the already stressed groundwater basin. Such action by the Water Board would create unnecessary and irreparable harm to our communities and thereby the health and safety of our constituents.

It is our belief that DWR, Reclamation and the Water Board must publically provide a detailed analysis to support their proposed action or any other action contemplated to address the current drought situation. Such analysis has not been completed nor publically vetted. Therefore, we strongly urge the Water Board to re-examine their approach to the TUCP and take the necessary steps to provide the required analysis needed to produce a fair solution that prevents such dire ramifications to agriculture, which is the backbone of our local economy.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,



Doug Teeter, Chair  
Butte County Board of Supervisors

**Sent via U.S. Mail and E-mail**