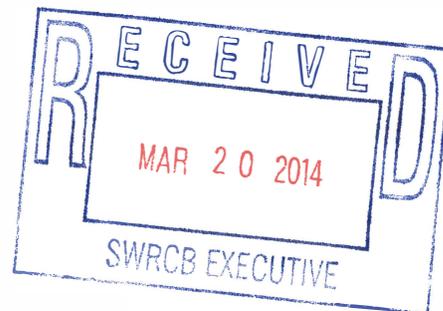




Kings County Farm Bureau

DWR

870 Greenfield Avenue • Hanford, California 93230
Telephone (559) 584-3557 • FAX (559) 584-1614 • www.kcfb.org



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March 14, 2014

Tom Howard
Executive Director
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. Howard:

On behalf of 750 Kings County Farm Bureau members, we are writing to oppose the decision of the State Water Resources Control Board to reprioritize water deliveries throughout the state, usurping federal authority and ignoring adjudicated water user rights.

This decision will have grave consequences on Central Valley communities. Farmers, farm laborers, rural municipalities, and the many industries that depend on them require 100% of federal water deliveries for drinking water and irrigation.

It is our understanding that the Board plans to issue a decision to cut back all Delta water pumping for agriculture, in order to achieve carryover storage. The communities that depend on agriculture and federal water will be the hardest hit by this decision and will shoulder the burden of the entire state. The economic implications will be devastating, increasing unemployment rates from 35-70% in several disadvantaged communities, while hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland lay fallow.

A cut in water will not only have a disastrous impact on disadvantaged communities, but also the state's economy. Many jobs depend on agricultural production including processing, transportation, wholesale, retail, and shipping through ports, such as Los Angeles, Long Beach, and Oakland. The value of lost economic activity tied to reduced crop production is estimated to reach \$5 billion.

We urge you to work with federal, state, and local entities to develop options that allow flexibility in fulfilling water contracts and mitigate the effects of the current drought and water cutbacks. The Bureau of Reclamation has been operating this part of its facilities and balancing competing interests for over 60 years. The State Board is unwarranted in second-guessing seasoned water managers.

The unprecedented nature of your decision to target only farmers under this proposal is cause for great concern. Manufacturers, offices, retail stores and others all rely on California's water resources, yet all the other areas of the state are excluded from demands to fulfill the undefined "health and safety" purposes.

California's Constitution requires regulatory agencies to issue a notice and hold a public hearing before restricting water use already authorized for an allowable use. This includes irrigated farmland. We urge you and the Board to uphold your public duty to take the necessary steps to ensure water allocation decisions are based on reason and balanced to meet the needs of the agricultural communities hit hardest by the drought.

Ignoring long established agricultural water rights will have severely detrimental impacts on the public health and safety of tens of thousands of Central Valley residents. Therefore, your final order must ensure communities receive high priority in the delivery of federal and state water.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dino Giacomazzi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dino Giacomazzi
President, Kings County Farm Bureau

cc:

Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senator
Andy Vidak, State Senator
David Valadao, U.S. Representative
Rudy Salas, State Representative
Karen Ross, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture
Felicia Marcus, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board
Frances Spivy-Weber, Vice-Chair, State Water Resources Control Board
Steven Moore, Member, State Water Resource Control Board
Tam M. Doduc, Member, State Water Resources Control Board
Dorene D'Adamo, Member, State Water Resources Control Board