

**Tom Howard**  
**Executive Director**

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PWR

March 6, 2014

State Water Resources Control Board



Dear Sir;

We are writing this letter to ask you to reconsider your positions on the taking of our water and our livelihood, that belongs to the farmers. You are sitting up there with a paycheck coming in every month, we on the other hand do not know where our living is going to be coming from...I know that you want to help with food stamps, and mortgage payments and that will only be a bigger burden on the State of California. We do not want a hand out, we want to work our land and make sure that our employees can take care of their families also.

There must be a reason other than safety because does not everyone living in California have to help out in the drought crises? You are only taking our water and no other industry or businesses are having this problem. California use to be number #1 in farming. You're Food, Fiber and Salary comes mostly from farming.

We are central California and feel as everyone in California should make lots of sacrifices especially all the cities that are near the ocean, why have you not put pressure on them to desalt so they are not taking our water, same goes for their sewage problems, those are not our problems but you expect us to bale them out.

The State Water Resources Control Board will be making a really big mistake. The domino effect will not only effect farming but all of California in the years to come. Please reconsider...Water!

Jack & Pat Jones  
Farmers

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack &amp; Pat Jones".

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## **Economic and Social Impacts** **State Water Resources Control Board's Illegal Action**

### **How is it impacting agriculture?**

More than 700,000 acres of productive farmland are expected to be fallowed this year. That's 780 square miles or about the combined size of Los Angeles and San Diego. The value of lost crop production in 2009 was \$368 million. This year that is estimated to top **\$2.5 billion**.

### **How will it impact the 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**.

### **Job Losses**

2009 – 7,434  
2014 – 15,000 (est.)

### **Additional Information**

Biological Opinion Impacts – 2012-2013

815,000 acre-feet of water went to the ocean in December and January with no measurable environmental benefit.

That was enough water to produce crops on 200,000 acres, which could have grown:

10 million tons of tomatoes;  
or 200 million boxes of lettuce (3.2 billion heads);  
or 20 million tons of grapes;  
or 210 million cartons of melons

### **Crop Losses**

2009 - \$368 million  
2014 - \$1.7 billion (est.)