

DWR

Teixeira and Sons

22759 S Mercey Springs Rd

Los Banos, CA 93635

209 827-9800



Hon. Felicia Marcus

Chairwoman, State Water Resources Control Board

1001 "I" Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairwoman Marcus:

I am writing to express our concerns for the decision of the State Water Resources Control Board to take water away from the Exchange Contractor Water Districts. Our family has been investing in drip and micro efficient irrigation systems for the past twenty years. Even in the Exchange Contractor Districts where in the past water has been sufficient and affordable to grow crops through furrow or flood irrigations systems. The Exchange Contractors have never had supplemental pool offerings for additional water until now. This is a life that the CVP has lived in since CVPIA. The Exchange Contractors are not poised to deal with such a decrease in water supply. We chose to spend our money on these projects because we believe that it is the right thing to do. We have always maintained a philosophy that if you take care of our land, it will take care of you.

Making a decision to take the Exchange Water Districts water down to 5% is not the right thing to do. The impact to our area will be devastating. We will lose trained labor that will leave the area for work to provide for their families. Suppliers will also be forced to lay off employees. Then the smaller communities are left trying to survive with a much smaller tax base. I believe that in desperate times everyone must deal with their part. There are many more equitable measures that can be taken than to simply cut off the life blood out of a specific area. I don't know what the answers are to making it more equitable, but I am sure you have a few ideas. We as a family farm are prepared to do our share. We have purchased land in the Exchange Contractor District because of the reliable water contract with our government. To simply disregard a promise is not morally or ethically right. Our son, who is in his senior year at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, has been working hard with the belief that he will have an opportunity to

work on our farm and eventually control and operate the farm just as I had the opportunity. Most other young men his age are choosing to leave the farm and work off the family farm. They choose this because they don't want to go through what they see their parents go through, dealing with government controls, that make no sense when it comes to being a steward of the land. Please do not take our water away. Not only do we have immediate family, we have extended family, our employees, some who have worked for our family for almost thirty years. Where do they go? What will they do? If you make this decision to cut our water to 5%, we will be forced to lay off thirty to forty employees. These are good hard working, law abiding citizens. Today I write this letter for my family and for my employee's family. Please take a more realistic approach and focus on getting more water in our storage facilities as they were designed for and not attacking the lower hanging fruit. Should you find the need to come out and look at our farm, or the area in general, to understand the effect of a 5% water allocation, please feel free to contact me at the above phone number. Not for a photo opt, but for a private informational meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Teixeira". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Tom Teixeira

Teixeira and Sons Farms