

Date: March 15, 2016

To the Members of the State Water Resources Control Board:

We represent our multi-generational farm family in the Sacramento Valley in Northern California. We own and actively farm our land in the Glenn Colusa Irrigation District. I am writing today to strongly urge the State Water Resources Control Board and other involved agencies to immediately work together to maximize the water supplies available for all CVP authorized purposes, including fish and wildlife, as well as waterfowl, agricultural, municipal and industrial and power generation purposes.

The Sacramento River Settlement Contractors (SRSC) are the most senior water rights holders on the Sacramento River. The suggestion that Shasta Reservoir, the largest storage facility in the CVP, be operated in such a manner as to significantly delay SRSC water diversions by more than a month or longer than they are entitled to divert under their Settlement Contracts and senior water rights must not be implemented.

As we have done before, landowners and farmers like myself are ready to voluntarily take actions to help conserve storage in Shasta, but holding off diversions until late May to early June would decimate agriculture and related economies in the Sacramento Valley. It would prevent me from planting a crop this year and in future years, and cause significant hardship to my operation, my family, and the regional economy. It would also affect other beneficial environmental activities and severely affect other species.

Our farm is called "Snow Goose Farms" due to the tremendous numbers of waterfowl and shorebirds who inhabit the area all winter (and some who stay year around). These and other terrestrial species rely on the water and the crop residue for food and especially habitat when the fields are re-flooded for straw decomposition. Developing the crop residue depends upon a vibrant crop being grown through its normal growing cycle. Late timing causes yield losses and in many year types, crop failure. Not only our farms, but our rural communities depend upon the crops and the resultant community incomes from sales, services and recreation in the off season recreational activities created (hunting, bird viewing).

Today, Shasta Reservoir has more than 3,000,000 acre-feet in storage; with the March storms, Shasta storage will likely approach the 4,000,000 acre-feet mark by early April. We all agree that the winter-run Chinook salmon must be protected. However, I urge you to take any and all necessary steps to work with the Bureau of Reclamation and others to immediately develop a CVP operations plans for all of the diverse needs that depend on water from the CVP, instead waiting until April or May.

Our farm consists of 820 acres, the majority of which is of a soil type that is conducive to rice production, and that is our only crop. If delayed deliveries of water shut down our ability to grow a crop, our family will suffer right along with our terrestrial species friends, and our community. Our county taxes, insurance premiums, employees still have to be made whole, and without a successful growing season, those obligations become impossible to maintain.

Our area is fortunate in having some amount of groundwater under it that some will see as being able to augment surface supplies, however, we are concerned with overdraft conditions as other crops are being initiated in areas where the soil is suitable for crops other than rice. As far as is known at this time, overdraft could easily occur if early planting needs were not being met by timely deliveries of surface water.

This land has been in production for numerous generations in my family and your actions could potentially change the future landscape of my farm and the Sacramento Valley. I strongly urge you to evaluate the far-reaching impacts as you make your decisions.

Sincerely,

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