

Date: March 17, 2016

To the Members of the State Water Resources Control Board.

As a landowner and farmer in the Sacramento Valley in Northern California 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.

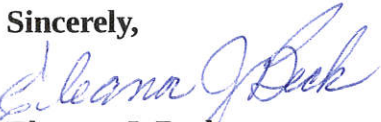
The Sacramento River Settlement Contractors (SRSC) are the most senior water rights holders on the Sacramento river. The suggestion that Shasta Reservoir, the largest storage facility in the CVP be operated in such a manner as to significantly delay SRSC water by more than a month or longer than they 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. The particular rice crop that I grow takes approx 135-140 days from sowing until maturity. After harvesting, we have to remove the straw from the fields which is usually swathing and baling and hauling. This later date planting could take us into a possible rainy seasons preventing the completion of straw removal in the fields. Another fact that I want to bring to light is: In order to obtain crop insurance for a rice crop the final day for planting is June 1st. I personally feel that the farmer has too many restrictions and hurdles to jump in order to put food in the grocery stores for public consumption. Please research all the repercussions of your actions before making your final decision as our counties economy is dependent on the farmers. If we cannot plant our crops just imagine the affect on all businesses and also the labor force. Unemployment would skyrocket! It would also affect other beneficial environmental activities and severely affect other species.

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.**

I farm approximately 150 acres of rice in Glenn and Colusa Counties. This land has been in production for numerous generations in my family, 5 to be exact, and your actions could potentially change the future landscape of my farm and the Sacramento Valley. **I STRONGLY URGE YOU TO EVALUATE THIS IMPACT AS YOU MAKE YOUR DECISIONS.**

Sincerely,



Eleanor J. Beck