

Date: March 18, 2016

To the Members of the State Water Resources Control Board:

As a manager of 10 duck clubs in the Northern 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) is the most senior water rights holder's 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, wildlife managers 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 operating in the fall due to lack of 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.

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, but it seems to me that the waterfowl that depend on fall harvested and flooded rice fields to survive, have been ignored.

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 am currently leasing over 10,000 acres of rice land and delaying the planting season will discourage many farmers from planting this year and as a result, ruin me financially.

This land has been in production for numerous generations and your actions could potentially change the future landscape of my operation and that of the Sacramento Valley. I strongly urge you to evaluate this impact as you make your decisions.

Sincerely,

Ronald W. Lara, President
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