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April 13, 2004

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OCC

Arthur G. Baggett, Chair
Division of Water Rights
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 "I" Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Petition for Long-Term Change Under Merced Irrigation District's
Licenses 2685, 6047, and 11385 (Applications 1224, 10572 and 16186)
and Modesto and Turlock Irrigation Districts' Licenses 5417 and 11058

Dear Chairman Baggett:

This letter is to confirm the oral statement made at the March 30, 2004 workshop on the Long-Term Change Petitions of Merced Irrigation District, Turlock Irrigation District and Modesto Irrigation District. On behalf of Merced, Turlock and Modesto Irrigation Districts, we hereby withdraw the change petitions for Merced Irrigation District, Turlock Irrigation District and Modesto Irrigation District.

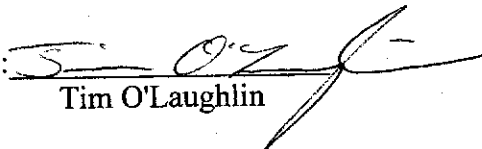
The withdrawal of these change petitions does not affect the viability of the San Joaquin River Agreement and the Vernalis Adaptive Management Plan. In fact, those pulse flow waters are being released and the fishery monitoring is in place for 2004.

We are sorry for using your time and staff's time to such an unproductive conclusion. The Draft Order and the position of the USBR on refill left the Districts with no option but to withdraw the petitions. The Districts were not going to accept more onerous refill conditions than D-1641, when the Districts were already opposed to the refill conditions contained in D-1641.

We thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,

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