

TUOLUMNE COUNTY FARM BUREAU
P.O. Box 675
JAMESTOWN, CA 95327

June 15, 2012

Mr. Tom Howard, Deputy Director
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Dear Tom,

The Tuolumne County Farm Bureau (TCFB) is very concerned over the reliability of our irrigation water in Tuolumne County. The Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) provides the county with drinking water as well as irrigation water.

During the FERC relicensing for PG&E's South Fork Stanislaus operations, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) set a condition of the 401 Water Quality Permit for Pinecrest Lake. The SWRCB permit condition calls for the surface water elevation to *not go below 5,608 feet* above sea level between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Because of our unusually dry year, PG&E and TUD has requested that the SWRCB allow them to draw the lake elevation down to 5,606 feet to be able to meet customers' demands.

Tuolumne County Farm Bureau has many producers that will lose their irrigation water if the variance to the lake elevation is not granted. The lake had been operated for decades at or below this elevation and recreation was still viable.

TCFB supports PG&E and TUD's request for a variance to the established lake elevation. The health and viability of our county depends on it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sasha J. Farkas, President

CC: Pete Kampa, TUD
Paul Wenger, California Farm Bureau Federation