

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, the landowners and farmers like myself are ready to voluntarily take actions to help conserve storage in Shasta, however 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 which I have planted for over 30 years and cause a significant hardship to my operation and the regional economy. Last year I had to wait for over 13 days to receive water after ordering it due to the water restrictions and back log. Realistically if a June 1st date is put into place it is probably the 20th at the earliest most people would end up planting and that is unacceptable. The particular rice crop that I grow takes about 150 days from sowing until harvest. Traditionally I have planted at the end of April or early May depending on the weather. After harvesting is done, we now have to remove the straw from the fields which is usually done by forage chopping or swathing and baling and hauling. This later date planting will take us into a possible rainy seasons preventing the completion of straw removal in the fields. 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 could 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 am a small farmer and farm approximately 120 acres of rice in Glenn and Colusa Counties. Some of this land I am buying and have to make payments every year and some has been in production for numerous generations in my family and your actions could potentially change the future landscape of my farming along with the Sacramento Valley. **I STRONGLY URGE YOU TO EVALUATE THIS IMPACT AS YOU MAKE YOUR DECISIONS.**

Sincerely,

Allen C. Beck Jr.

