

3-20-13

State Water Resources Control Board



Hello, my name is Joe Scoto. I am a lifelong citizen of California and I am a 3rd generation farmer of more than 32 years.

First off, to begin with thank you for the opportunity & time that you have given to hear what I have to say.

Water, especially here in California is the backbone of what has driven this state and it's populace to become the 8th largest economy in the world. However as of late, water usage by agriculture seems to have come under attack. At the core of this attack lies the delta smelt as well as saltwater and brackish water issues in the delta.

I am sure the board has heard many facts about how devastating a cutback of water to valley farms is and will become. These facts are relevant and pertain to however much water you choose to take from us.

Today, I will not be restating these same facts. Today I am going to present a hopeful solution to the board, with a sense

of urgency and concern. If the board makes a decision and it includes the use of our 35% of unimpaired flows, my life's work as well as my farms future in California will turn to dust.

I digress, as I stated earlier, I come before the board today with a solution. I believe that the future of water usage can be accomplished with the use of desalination plants.

In 2008 a Connecticut based firm won approval to build a desalination plant north of San Diego that would produce 50 million gallons of drinking water per day. This would be enough water for one hundred thousand homes at the cost of .81 cents per cubic meter or 264 gallons equaling 300ths of a cent per gallon. This plant has yet to be fully operational because of environmental issues.

A San Leandro company has been desalinating water for .46 cents per cubic meter or 100th of a cent per gallon. This company has installations all over the world from Istanbul, Australia, Europe, India and many more locations. A desalination plant can make its own energy to power itself.

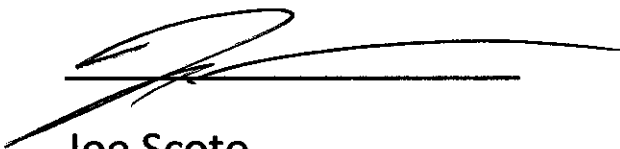
The board is asking us farmers to give up approximately 1,260,000 acre feet per year. This could feed over one million people per year. This would equal two hundred fifty two thousand acres of farm ground that would need to sit idle.

With each side attacking each other farmers versus environmentalists, are we not really on the same side providing for the people. Shouldn't we really be trying to work toward a common goal, which is ensuring that the populous has enough water and food to feed present and future generations? First and foremost humans and their well being should come first.

California is always ahead of the curve, let's keep the water in the reservoirs be productive and grow the safest and most cost effective food in the world. *WE HAVE ONE THING THAT OTHER HIGHLY POPULATED STATES DON'T HAVE AND THAT'S 840 MILES OF COASTLINE.*

Let us be like other countries around the world and make a sensible decision by building cost effective desalination plants and provide for future generations to come.

Thank you,



Joe Scoto

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