



SAN JOAQUIN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

MEETING TODAY'S CHALLENGES / PLANNING FOR TOMORROW

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January 26, 2007

Ms. Victoria Whitney
Division of Water Rights
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Sent via facsimile to (916) 341-5400

RE: North San Joaquin Water Conservation District Order 2006-0018

Dear Ms. Whitney,

The San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation represents over 5,000 members in San Joaquin County. Our members rely on surface water and groundwater to feed their families and continue farming.

We urge you to reconsider Water Rights Order 2006-0018-DWR ("Order 2006-0018") in the matter of Permit 10477 (Application 12842) regarding diversion by North San Joaquin Water Conservation District. This supply is imperative to agricultural and urban interests in Northern San Joaquin County.

As we are experiencing this year, a wet year with an abundance of water can be immediately followed by drought conditions the next year. San Joaquin County is currently experiencing severe overdraft in the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Basin. The North San Joaquin Water Conservation District is a key component to reversing this tide.

Agriculture has been urged to conserve water by integrating the latest technology in irrigation and water saving techniques. What we have forgotten is that by saving water, we are not recharging the underground aquifer at the rate we had previously done with surface water irrigation. Percolation and direct recharge of irrigation water into the groundwater basin is a community benefit.

The North San Joaquin Water Conservation District Board of Directors has made positive changes and is looking forward to providing progressive opportunities for the communities that they serve. We firmly support their right to be heard in this important matter and for them to maintain their water right.

Sincerely,

Mike Robinson
President

CC: Senator Mike Machado
Assemblymember Alan Nakanishi
San Joaquin County Supervisor Ken Vogel
North San Joaquin Water Conservation District