



# CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

1127-11TH STREET, SUITE 626, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 · PHONE (916) 446-4647

4/17/12 Bd. Mtg. Item 5  
Resource Alignment  
Deadline: 4/13/12 by 12 noon

April 13, 2012



Chairman Charles Hoppin  
Attn: Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

*Submitted Via Email: [jtownsend@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:jtownsend@waterboards.ca.gov)*

**RE: COMMENT LETTER- DRAFT REPORT ASSESSING AND ALIGNING  
PRIORITIES, RESOURCES, AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS**

Dear Chairman Hoppin and Members of the Board:

The California Farm Bureau Federation (Farm Bureau) has reviewed the State Water Resources Control Board's (Water Board) draft report assessing and aligning priorities, resources, and performance targets. Farm Bureau's purpose is to protect and improve the ability of farmers and ranchers engaged in production agriculture to provide a safe reliable and healthful food and farm product supply through responsible stewardship of our diverse natural resources. California's farmers and ranchers are committed to ensuring the long-term viability of lands they own and manage, and the resources they depend on.

Farm Bureau understands this draft report is the first step in assessing the water boards' priorities and allocation of resources. We understand this draft is intended to look inward at the water boards' processes and that next steps will focus on how best to engage stakeholders to review priorities and allocation of resources to most effectively achieve water quality objectives. We believe additional clarification in the Executive Summary will go a long way to framing the focus of the report as internal Water Board activities.

However, Farm Bureau does have concerns with the structure and content of the draft report that can misrepresent the agricultural community's activities today.

Farm Bureau looks forward to next steps and to working with the State Water Resource Control Board on program efficiencies, structures, systems, and methodologies that will protect and improve water quality. The tremendous success of the Colorado River Basin's Conditional Prohibition addressing sediment from agricultural irrigation into the New and Alamo rivers is a prime example of how partnership, coordination and cooperation between regulators and the regulated can efficiently and effectively solve priority issues of concern. Agriculture has and will continue to be more efficient and productive. Likewise, when working in cooperation with stakeholders, nonpoint source water quality programs have the greatest potential for success with reduced costs to the state and the regulated community. We look forward to demonstrating how California farmers and ranchers are continually adapting to new science, new technology and methods to address issues of concern.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danny J. Merkley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "M".

Danny Merkley  
Director of Water Resources