

Marty Lakey
P.O. Box 682
Fall River Mills, CA 96028

February 3, 2025

Mr. Mark Bradford, Chairman
Central Valley Region Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, No. 200
Ranch Cordova, CA 95670-6114

Dear Mr. Bradford:

I am writing to you to ask that the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board consider removing the Upper Pit River Watershed from the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. I own a small family farm in the Fall River Valley. We grow grass hay and irrigated pasture and raise cattle. This ranch has been in my family for over 100 years. We have no employees and together my wife and I provide all the labor and management.

Over the years we have worked hard to improve the ranch and have installed pipelines (for water delivery) and leveled fields. These improvements have improved our irrigation efficiency tremendously and have reduced tail water discharge. We base our fertilizer decision on soil and tissue testing. Over the decades we have survived roller coaster price fluctuation by watching our input cost closely.

We have been active in the local organization that manages the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program locally (Northeastern California Water Association) and have served as President as well as director. In this role, I have attended many meetings and am convinced that the data collected to date does not show an impact to water quality by irrigated agriculture in the Upper Pit Watershed.

Removing the Upper Pit Watershed from the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program will not have a negative impact on water quality. We will continue to make investments in infrastructure and management to improve the efficiency of water use.

We are hopeful you will consider our request to explore exempting the Upper Pit Watershed. If you have any questions, please contact me at 530-945-3513

Sincerely,

Marty and Lisa Lakey