

Thank you, Donny
Hughson Nut Field Rep
Cell (209) 277-5875



Begin forwarded message:

From: <Donny@hughsonnut.com>
Date: March 28, 2013, 9:19:22 AM PDT
To: "commentletters@waterboards.com" <commentletters@waterboards.com>
Subject: "Comment letter-Bay-Delta Plan SED"

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal to take 35% unimpaired flow from the Merced, Tuolumne, and Stanislaus rivers. I ask that you would please consider the devastating impact this would have on our farming heritage. We have farmed under this system for more than a hundred years. We have become very efficient in water use. The amount of irrigated land has decreased because of urban development and the use of ground water for irrigation. We are beginning to see an overdraft problem though. We need a balance with flood and micro-drip Irrigation. The DFW wants more than 60%, where will it stop. I hear some say we need to go back to the way the rivers flowed over a hundred years ago, well if we did that we would need to remove all the dams, I suggest if we do that let's remove all the levees in the Delta and also the homes and business' that are on landfill in the SF Bay. I would also like to know if a study has been done on the wetlands and food that is provided for waterfowl from irrigated land on the west side. I'm not sure if you are aware of the Aleutian Cackling Goose that winter on the west side. In the 1930' there were only 300 birds living on the island of Buldir in the Aleutian Islands, Alaska. In 1967 they where one the first species to be placed on the endangered species list. With the extermination of the Arctic Fox, that was introduced by fur traders, and farmers on the west side that grow grains from irrigation that the geese glean when they arrive in the Fall, the Aleutian Goose was delisted in 2001, something that is unheard of. I fear that in drought years some of the field will go fallow and the geese will not have a food source and their numbers will decline.

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