



Attn: Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board  
Executive Office  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Cal/EPA Headquarters  
1001 "I" Street, 24th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Jeanine Townsend,

I agree with Kristen Olsen on the issues she mentions. If the Board's decision is enforced, it would fallow approximately 210,000 acres of farmland in San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Merced counties in dry years. Even the Board admits that its proposal would create an "unavoidable and significant" impact. Besides turning even more agricultural fields into dust bowls, it would put hundreds, if not thousands, of people out of work and significantly raise water rates. The human impact would be tremendous and far too much for our already struggling region to bear.

Stanislaus County alone has at least a 15 percent unemployment rate, which is much higher than the statewide rate of 9.7 percent. In some Valley communities, unemployment reaches to the 30 and 40 percent range, rates found in developing countries. And in many neighborhoods, we find unspeakable poverty, low graduation rates, and poor health care due to a lack of jobs and, in some places, a lack of clean water.

When will human needs have a higher priority than fish?

Please rescind this issue and bring back common sense to Central California.

Mark Downing