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Arthur Baggett, Jr.
Chair of the State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear Mr. Baggett,

As a co-owner, and a third generation owner, of farmland in Imperial County, I am greatly disturbed by the current discussion of fallowing our farmland to transfer water between the Imperial Irrigation District and the San Diego County Water Authority.

The original transfer document signed between the IID and San Diego expressly prohibits fallowing because of the severe job loss and economic dislocation that would ensue in the Imperial Valley. In addition, fallowing would destroy the farmland, such as our property, that has had a tremendous amount of tile installed on it, at great expense to us as owners, to bring our farmland up to top quality for production. If this ground were to be fallowed, it would revert back to the condition it was before we started the tile work. The salt would "percolate to the the surface of the ground again", with no irrigation water applied to the fields to continue to leach the salt out of the ground. This in turn would once again make the farmland non-productive or at the least would result in very poor production.

In addition, the original transfer agreement was based on active conservation measures and called for VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION. Now the politician's are trying to change the rules so that fallowing becomes the only option and participation is compulsory.

It has been a known fact from the beginning that Imperial Valley cannot transfer water to the coast without some undesirable affect on the Salton Sea. I am fully aware that the Salton Sea is a very important wild life preserve (wetland), and I am as concerned about our wild life as others in the Imperial Valley; however, must we sacrifice the economy of the Imperial Valley as well as the status of production capabilities, which fallowing



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would destroy.

Hundreds of thousand of people in the United States rely on crops from our farmland to put food on their table and feed their families. Can we really afford to provide water to the San Diego coastal area at the expense of hundreds of thousands of people.

I ask you, not only as a farmland owner, but as a concerned citizen of the United States, to reconsider the mandatory following of our farmland.

Sincerely,

Jerrie Pittman
Vice Pres.
B & P Enterprises, Inc.