



June 20, 2002

Arthur Baggett, Jr, Chairman
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, California 95812

This letter is written in reference to the ongoing water transfer negotiations between Imperial Irrigation District and San Diego. The original agreed upon concept behind the water transfer was to conserve water through on farm savings. Pilot projects have been ongoing in Imperial Valley to determine the value of water conservation. Saving water has not been ignored by our communities. It has been acceptable to us to transfer water to the coast our additional costs are paid by the water recipient and as long as our economy is not negatively impacted. San Diego has agreed to this and full utilization of our farmground.

The recent water transfer environmental report places some doubt as to the ability to conserve water without a negative impact to the environment. With the end of 2002 deadline for completing an agreement, those in power are looking to take the fastest way via fallowing. Fallowing appears to be the solution being forced upon Imperial Valley without adequate time to address the environmental issues and solutions. It is not reasonable to expect the participants in this transfer to research the alternatives to mitigate the environmental problems by the end of the year. The first thing that needs to be done is to provide adequate time to consider all of the options and scientifically justify solutions. At this point, the process is proceeding blindly forward with what appears to be little regard to those who live, work, and own businesses in Imperial Valley. We have few resources and a high unemployment. Taking away our most important resource magnifies problems in our communities. Lets take some time to think through these problems.

Sincerely,

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