



Testimony of Jack J. Pandol to SWRCB Regarding the Allocation of Kern River Water

My ancestors immigrated to the San Joaquin Valley early in 20th century and have been engaged in the production of high value crops until today. The majority of the land that they farmed and continue to farm is located in Tulare and Kern County. Most of it is served by the Friant Water System and water originating from the Kern River.

I am a graduate of UC Davis in Plant Science. My education has been invaluable in my career long quest to use all resources efficiently and sustainably. Our family farms were on the cutting edge of high efficiency irrigation starting in the mid 70's with one of the first drip irrigation systems. We installed the first computerized irrigation control system in California in the mid 80's.

I was privileged to serve as Undersecretary of Cal EPA from 1993-1996. In that capacity I was a member of the Governor's Water Policy Council. I worked closely with the SWRCB, the Regional Boards and DWR to improve water quality and supply in every region of the state.

Currently I own, lease, manage or consult on 2,000 acres of permanent crops in Kern and Tulare Counties. I also serve on the Board of Directors of Pandol Brothers Inc., a major sales company of California fruits and vegetables. We export close to half of our crops to markets around the world. I am also a co-founder of International Fruit Genetics, a company that breeds and licenses table grape and cherry varieties worldwide.

The southern portion of the San Joaquin Valley where we operate is a worldwide marvel of God-given natural resources, public investment and private endeavor. No other region in the world produces the abundance and quality of wholesome fruits, nuts, fiber and vegetables. We are the nation's and the world's fruit and vegetable basket. Thousands of jobs directly and indirectly are supported by the agricultural industry in the area.

Sadly, there are many misconceptions and misguided policies in water supply that threaten to undermine agriculture. The current dispute that is the subject of this hearing is only one of many issues that continue to threaten critical water supplies and jobs.

There is clear history that the water of the Kern River has been used principally for irrigated agriculture. The efficient use of this water has increased steadily over the years as the agricultural industry has invested substantially in high efficiency irrigation. (The pace of