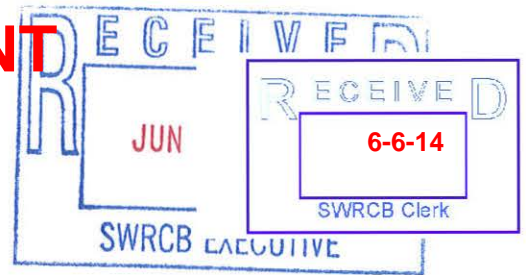


June 2, 2014

LATE COMMENT



State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Attn: Felicia Marcus, Chair; Frances Spivy-Weber, Vice Chair; Tam M. Dudoc, Member; Steven Moore, Member; and Dorene (DeeDee) D'Adamo, Member

Our names are David DeLash and Elaine DeLash and we are growers, landowners, and landlords in the Patterson Irrigation District, a California irrigation district that holds pre-1914 water rights on the San Joaquin River. We operate David DeLash Farms and Robinson Farms and have been farming in the Patterson area for over 35 years. Our crops include walnuts, oats, corn, and alfalfa.

We are following the State Board workshop items regarding the curtailment of senior water rights holders on the San Joaquin River and we are deeply concerned about the possibility of curtailment and what that will mean to our farm and our community. Based on the coordination occurring between water rights holders on the San Joaquin River system, we believe curtailments should not be issued for 2014. We have been aware of the severity of the drought and have made significant changes to our operations to account for some water supply shortfalls for 2014, including; modify irrigation practices to longer intervals between irrigation, irrigating every other furrow on corn crop. With less irrigation water to water our crops, production will be down and our farm income per acre will be down as well. Our farming operation will be forced to lay off employees or significantly reduce their hours.

We ask that you consider the additional and potentially long-lasting economic impacts that will result from senior water rights curtailments, on a year that is already fraught with water supply shortages. We also ask that you consider the coordinated efforts to assure that senior rights holders will not be injured this year. We implore the State Board not issue curtailments to senior water rights holders on the San Joaquin River.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David DeLash
Elaine DeLash

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