



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR



MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

State Water Resources Control Board

APR 27 2015

Terrance Peltzer
17396 Ave. 344
Visalia, CA 93292

Subject: 2015 California Drought

Dear Mr. Peltzer,

Thank you for your February 19, 2015 letter to Felicia Marcus, Chair of the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) regarding the scarcity of available water to San Joaquin Valley farmers as a result of the ongoing drought. Chair Marcus referred your letter to me for response.

The State Water Board and their staff appreciate the very real concerns with the lack of water availability for farming that you raised in your letter and the frustration and hardship those concerns have caused you and others. We have and will continue to carefully consider those issues during the drought. To date, we have acted expeditiously to relax long-standing scientifically based minimal flow and other requirements to protect fish and wildlife and other uses in the Delta on numerous occasions to make more water available primarily for agricultural uses north and south of the Delta. Last year, the changes we approved to the requirements of the State Water Project and Central Valley Project (Projects) resulted in savings of more than 400 thousand acre-feet of water mostly for agricultural uses. This year, the changes that were approved may result in up to 1.2 million acre-feet of savings. Most of these changes have been at the expense of fish and wildlife that are currently experiencing historically low population levels that may ultimately lead to extinctions of economically and ecologically important species. Despite these concerns, almost all of the changes that have been requested for the Projects have been approved in order to reduce the effects of the drought on agriculture and people.

However, the changes that were approved cannot fully mitigate the effects of historic drought conditions in which there simply is not enough water to allocate to all human uses of water. A minimal amount of outflow must be provided through the Delta to prevent sea water intrusion such that water can continue to be diverted from the Delta for agricultural and municipal uses. In addition, senior water right holders are entitled to the use of water prior to junior water right holders. In the Delta watershed these uses are significant. The Projects are amongst the most junior users of water in the Delta. As such, there is limited water available to them during a drought for uses south of the Delta. This limited water availability for the Projects makes water transfers critical. The State Water Board has also acted expeditiously to facilitate and expedite these transfers over the past several years and to preserve water to make water available to users north of the Delta who transfer water south of the Delta. We have also worked to provide drinking water and financial assistance to communities in need.

FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

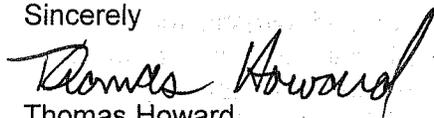
1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 | Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, Ca 95812-0100 | www.waterboards.ca.gov

In the Order I issued on February 3, 2015, I did not approve one of the changes that was requested by the Projects to export additional water from the Delta (intermediate export level) because I could not find at that time that the change would not have unreasonable effects on fish and wildlife, because of the very significant impacts that occurred to Delta fish species last year and the fact that most of these fish were currently residing in the Delta. However, that decision ultimately had a relatively small effect on water exports resulting in five thousand acre-feet less diversions from the Delta than could have occurred had the intermediate pumping level been approved. I have since approved the intermediate pumping level -- on March 5 I approved its use for health and safety purposes and on April 6 I approved its use for all project purposes. However, as was the case earlier this year, there have been limited opportunities for this additional export flexibility to be exercised due to the lack of precipitation and the limited duration of the events where this export flexibility could be exercised.

We are committed to continue to seek an appropriate balance between the competing water needs in the face of historic dry conditions. We appreciate your input and will continue to consider the needs of San Joaquin Valley farming and other uses as the drought continues.

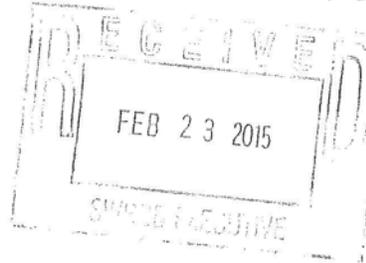
If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Rich Satkowski at (916) 341-5439 or by email at: rich.satkowski@waterboards.ca.gov. Written correspondences or inquiries should be addressed as follows: State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights, Attn: Rich Satkowski, P.O. Box 2000, Sacramento, CA, 95812-2000.

Sincerely



Thomas Howard
Executive Director

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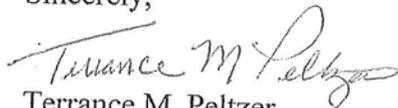
February 19, 2015

State Water Resources Control Board
1001 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Felicia Marcus, Board Chair,

I am living in a nightmare. I am a 4th generation family farmer and my livelihood is on the line as a direct result of one man. I have gone to rallies, carried signs, written letters to our senators and I have been pushed to the point of desperation. My fellow farmers and I are beginning to see the big picture. There is obviously a plan to put the San Joaquin Valley farmer out of business, because the solution is so simple. Please open the gates. I guess buying food from Mexico, China and Chile is not alarming to you. We grow the most highly regulated and safest food in the world and we have been labeled the bad guy. Why? We are hard working law abiding citizens of the United States of America. A country that I would never imagined playing a part in my demise.

Sincerely,


Terrance M. Peltzer