



WESTERN AGRICULTURAL PROCESSORS
ASSOCIATION

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February 11, 2015

The Honorable Felicia Marcus
Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 261h Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814



Dear Madame Chair:

The Western Agricultural Processors Association (WAPA) represents tree nut hullers and processors of almonds, pecans, pistachios and walnuts throughout California and we wish to express our sincere disappointment with the recent decision by the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) Executive Director, Mr. Tom Howard, to deny the portion of the Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) that would allow the Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to increase pumping during specific periods of February and March 2015. We respectfully request the SWRCB immediately reconsider and reverse the denial in light of the support for the TUCP provided to Mr. Howard and the Board by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

We are very concerned with Mr. Howard's decision, based on the worsening drought. Both the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project have notified their water users to expect record low, or near record low water supplies this year. In this fourth year of drought, it is essential that we balance the needs of California's people with the needs of the ecosystem. We think that balance was appropriately struck by the State and federal fish agencies when they supported all provisions of the TUCP, including limited increases in pumping during February and March. It is unclear to us why Mr. Howard disregarded the scientific and biological conclusions of the State and federal scientists charged with protecting fish and wildlife, and replaced them with his own view.

In closing, we urgently request the SWRCB immediately reconsider and reverse the February 3rd denial of the increased pumping provision of the TUCP. In addition, we further request that the SWRCB provide a written description of the scientific analysis used to refute the scientific conclusions of the State and federal fish agencies. This state is mired in a devastating crisis, and decisions like this must be justified.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger A. Isom".

Roger A. Isom
President/CEO