

## RESOLUTION

Whereas, the State Water Resources Control Board's Draft Substitute Environmental Document (SED) proposes to require the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Rivers to release 35 percent of unimpaired flow from February to June of each year; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirements will create "significant and unavoidable" impacts to the economy, agriculture, and groundwater basins in Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Merced Counties; and

WHEREAS, those impacts include approximately \$69 million in economic impacts in an economically distressed region of our state; and

WHEREAS, the impacts result in a loss of \$4.5 million in energy revenue to the Modesto, Merced and Turlock Irrigation districts only to be offset by rate increases to all power users in Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Counties; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement would fallow approximately 128,295 acres of prime farm land and result in the loss of over 800 family farms in the region; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement will result in over-drafted groundwater basins; and


WHEREAS, approximately 1.5% of the jobs in the three county areas will be permanently lost and up to 3.1% of related sector jobs will be lost during drought periods; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirements will not benefit native fish populations or promote ecosystem restoration; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement ignores non-flow alternatives that are less costly and more effective; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement compromises attaining the dual goals of ecosystem restoration and water supply reliability under SBx7-7.

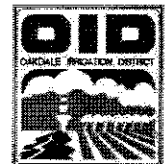
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the State Water Resources Control Board should pursue a comprehensive solution that is consistent with the timing of the overall comprehensive Delta planning process and which takes into account the potential impact on hydroelectric energy generation. This solution must prioritize non-flow measures to protect native fish species, such as predation reduction programs, before demanding flow increases that would threaten the economic vitality of these California counties, cities, and small family farms.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Entity)

3-25-13  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Send your signed Resolution and/or your Personal response by March 29<sup>th</sup> to:

Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95814-0100





## OID WATER USER NOTICE ON IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

### OUR WATER...YOUR FUTURE AT STAKE BY THE STATE WATER BOARD

By now you may have heard about the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) proposal to implement a 35% unimpaired flow standard on the San Joaquin River as their means to address fish and south delta impacts. Unimpaired flow is the runoff that would have occurred under "natural" conditions. The SWRCB's plan would "take" 35% of all the water that would have flowed out of the watershed between February and June and give it back to the environment in the "hopes" of re-building fisheries and the south delta. The irrigation districts would get what is left to then store in their reservoirs and run their operations.

In order to meet the State's plan the following would need to take place; the retirement of 800 family farms totaling 128,000 acres or 40% of the farmed area in the Merced and Tuolumne basins; specifically, the hardest hit areas of this Plan. For all areas, a chronic unemployment rise of 1.5% and upwards of 4.6% during drought years. An annual replacement cost of \$4.5 million in lost hydro-electric revenues that would be borne by all MID, TID and MeID rate payers. In simple terms, all of us in the three basin areas would be paying all the costs for the State to take our water.

While there is much wrong with the delta it is not wholly the responsibility of the meager 10-15% of flows emanating from the tributaries of the San Joaquin River to the delta that have caused this impact. The dams and facilities built by our predecessors did not drain the wetlands of the delta; did not erect levees and replace native habitat with rock rip-rap lined channels in the name of delta farming and flood control. Our dams did not stock non-native predator fish at the turn of the century that today consume 50% of the small salmon as they migrate to the ocean. Our dams do not release bilge pump water from international trade ships that add 2-4 invasive species into the delta each year. Our dams did not dig the Stockton Deep Water Ship Channel that creates a migration barrier to fish. Our dams did not build the State and Federal Water Projects that ship millions of gallons south to the economic engine of our State. It is not our dams that fail to enforce our State's water right laws, to stop the illegal diversion of thousands of acre feet from the delta and its tributary rivers by those who have no right to such water. There's much accountability to be doled out regarding the delta's decline, but to focus solely on the water in our dam as being the root cause and solution to these problems is not the answer.

How can you help? Go to [calsmartwater.org](http://calsmartwater.org) and learn more. Also, on the backside of this Water User Notice is a resolution for you to sign and send to the SWRCB to voice your opinion. Just send to the address indicated. We appreciate your help in protecting your water and your future.

### IRRIGATED LAND PROGRAM AND COALITION MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

New reporting requirements on nitrogen fertilizer use and farming practices are coming by adoption in December 2012 by the Regional Water Board of new "Waste Discharge Requirements." These new requirements cover groundwater and surface water in the eastern San Joaquin region. The new regulations give growers two options for compliance: (1) Obtain an individual permit directly from the Water Board; or (2) Join the third party group currently representing growers in the region. That group is the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (ESJWQC). Existing members of the coalition are grandfathered into the new program. Those who aren't members have until May 13, 2013 to join. After that date growers must first apply to the Water Board and pay its \$50 fee before being allowed to join the ESJWQC.

Water Board staff will be attending informational meetings and all day sign-up clinics scheduled for April 23<sup>rd</sup> (Madera Co. Farm Bureau), 24<sup>th</sup> (Merced County Farm Bureau) and 25<sup>th</sup> (Stanislaus Co. Farm Bureau).

As indicated above, please read, sign and mail the Resolution on backside of this Water User Notice.

Monday, March 25, 2013

We are a small farm near Oakdale, 15 acres of newly planted Walnut trees which need the water regularly. We put them on a sprinkler system which helps conserve rather than flood irrigate.

We want to preserve the family farm and not lose water.

Sincerely

*Joan Ingram*

Joan & Rich Ingram  
Oakdale, CA 95361

