

ACWA POLICY STATEMENT ON BAY-DELTA FLOW REQUIREMENTS

COLLABORATIVE APPROACH IS KEY TO CALIFORNIA'S FUTURE

California is facing a defining moment in water policy. A staff proposal under consideration by the State Water Resources Control Board presents a decision point about the future we want for California and its communities, farms, businesses and ecosystems. The State Water Board's staff proposal to base new water quality objectives on a "percentage of unimpaired flow" would have impacts that ripple far beyond water for fish.

The proposal could lead to widespread fallowing of agricultural land, undercut the state's groundwater sustainability goals, cripple implementation of the Brown Administration's California Water Action Plan, negatively affect water reliability for much of the state's population and impact access to surface water for some disadvantaged communities that do not have safe drinking water. These effects are not in the public's interest.

Local water managers overwhelmingly believe the proposal's singular focus on "unimpaired flow" is the wrong choice for the state's future. California's urban and agricultural water managers are united in their vision for a future that includes a healthy economy as well as healthy ecosystems and fish populations. That vision is best achieved through comprehensive, collaborative approaches that include "functional" flows as well as non-flow solutions that contribute real benefits to ecosystem recovery.

On behalf of its more than 430 member public agencies serving urban and agricultural customers throughout the state, the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) adopts the following policy statement regarding the State Water Board's proposed approach to updating the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

LOCAL SUCCESS STORIES

Collaborative efforts have been successful on many rivers in the Bay-Delta watershed.

Lower Yuba River: A voluntary, collaborative settlement among Yuba County Water Agency, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service, PG&E and conservation groups resolved 20 years of controversy and resulted in a continuing program to improve 24 miles of salmon and steelhead habitat while protecting water rights and the needs of local communities. State Water Board members have specifically recognized the value of the agreement, which was formally implemented in 2008.

Lower American River: A broad representation of water suppliers, environmental groups, local governments and others negotiated an historic agreement that led to a flow management standard that was successfully incorporated into a 2009 biological opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Feather River: Six years of negotiations among water users, fisheries agencies and environmental groups yielded a comprehensive agreement that includes a habitat improvement program with specific flow and temperature requirements to accommodate spawning salmon and steelhead. The State Water Board adopted the agreement, with some modification, in 2010 as a water quality certification under the federal Clean Water Act.

CHOOSING OUR VISION FOR CALIFORNIA'S WATER FUTURE

Since 2009, state law has required water resources to be managed in a way that achieves the coequal goals of improving water supply reliability for California and protecting, restoring and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. ACWA and its public water agency members believe that policy requires a commitment from state agencies and stakeholders to advance both water supply and environmental goals together. ACWA and its members further believe that effective implementation of the coequal goals requires transparent, collaborative processes and comprehensive solutions.

In 2014, the Brown Administration released its California Water Action Plan outlining priority actions addressing water-use efficiency, groundwater sustainability, ecological restoration, Delta conveyance solutions, water storage, safe drinking water and more. Embedded in the plan is the Brown Administration's commitment that planned actions "will move California toward more sustainable water management *by providing a more reliable water supply for our farms and communities*, restoring important wildlife habitat and species, and helping the state's water systems and environment become more resilient."

ACWA believes the policy of coequal goals and the commitment embedded in the California Water Action Plan have the potential to put California on a path that includes a vibrant agricultural and urban economy and a healthy ecosystem.

ACWA and its members believe the unimpaired flow approach proposed by State Water Board staff undercuts and threatens that potential and cannot lead us to the future we want for California. Simply put, any strategy that would result in vast amounts of agricultural land going out of production and ultimately reduce water supply reliability for the majority of Californians is irreconcilable with a policy of coequal goals and blatantly inconsistent with the water policy objectives of the Brown Administration.

ACWA strongly supports the collaborative approach called for by Governor Jerry Brown to move these important decisions out of adversarial processes and into negotiated, comprehensive agreements. The following principles can assure success in that endeavor.

A BETTER PATH TO THE FUTURE

The State Water Board is responsible for updating the Bay-Delta Plan in a manner that establishes water quality objectives that ensure the reasonable protection of all beneficial uses of water (including domestic, municipal, agricultural and industrial supply; power generation; recreation; aesthetic enjoyment; navigation; and preservation and enhancement of fish, wildlife, and other aquatic resources) while considering past, present and probable future beneficial uses, environmental characteristics, water quality conditions and economic considerations, among other things. (See California Water Code Section 13241.) It also has a responsibility to update the plan in a way that is consistent with the coequal goals and respects and implements the commitments made in the California Water Action Plan.

ACWA and its members urge the State Water Board to set aside the unimpaired flow approach and heed Governor Brown's call for negotiated agreements. ACWA believes that a successful flows policy must be consistent with the following principles:

- **Collaboration:** The governor has called for work on a comprehensive agreement on environmental flows in both the San Joaquin and Sacramento River basins. He has asked that State Water Board members and staff prioritize analysis and implementation of voluntary agreements. Further, the Brown Administration committed in the California Water Action Plan that the State Water Board and the California Natural Resources Agency will work with stakeholders to encourage negotiated implementation of protective Delta standards. ACWA strongly supports the collaborative approach called for by the governor because it is the least contentious, most effective way to achieve the coequal goals. Negotiated agreements have been demonstrably successful at achieving outcomes and widespread support for appropriate environmental flows; forced

regulations have not yielded the same track record. The State Water Board should wholly embrace this approach and allow enough time for it to work.

- **Comprehensive Solutions:** A successful collaborative approach will require comprehensive solutions for both water supply and ecosystem management. Water users will need to continue and build on their commitment to integrated resources management in order to maintain reliability without undue impacts on the ecosystem. Similarly, ecosystem managers will need to focus on the entire life cycle of affected species and multiple variables, such as predation, food, and habitat availability to develop integrated management portfolios that accomplish ecosystem goals without undue impacts on water supply. Utilizing the single variable proposed in the "percentage of unimpaired flow" approach will not achieve the desired ecological outcomes and is, by far, the most destructive policy approach from the perspective of protecting and improving water supply. ACWA firmly believes the ecological outcomes can be achieved with even better results through a comprehensive approach that considers multiple solutions and benefits.
- **Science:** The State Water Board needs to incorporate the best available science to inform its work and assist with the development of voluntary settlement agreements. The unimpaired flow approach, in which flow objectives are not tied to any specific ecological outcome, fails to incorporate the best available science. As noted above, the updated plan needs to focus on the entire life cycle of affected species and multiple variables, such as predation, food, and habitat availability, and incorporate relevant current scientific information. Science alone cannot identify the best policy choice, but it can inform us about the policy tradeoffs we confront and help structure integrated solutions that provide ecosystem benefits with far less impact on water supply, the California economy and the public interest.



FUNCTIONAL FLOWS: A BETTER APPROACH

Sacramento Valley: Sacramento Valley water users and conservation partners are working together to advance a new generation of innovative projects to promote salmon recovery.

Over the past two and a half years, 12 projects have been completed through the Sacramento Valley Salmon Recovery Program to address fish passage, improve the timing of flows and increase habitat for salmon and other species. Priority projects have included removal of structural barriers to fish passage, modifying riffles, eliminating predator habitat, restoring floodplains and creating side channel spawning and rearing areas.

In addition, program partners are exploring creative ways to reconnect water with the land in floodplains and agricultural areas to enhance habitat and food production and create rearing habitat in rice fields.

While each of these collaborative projects provides independent value, implementation of the entire comprehensive suite is generating unique benefits that can significantly improve ecological outcomes for salmon in the Sacramento Valley.

Merced River: Merced Irrigation District has spent millions of dollars and decades undertaking intense and in-depth scientific research on the Merced River. This research has included analysis of flows, temperatures, biological resources and habitat. MID is poised to put this research into action through its Merced S.A.F.E. Plan (Salmon, Agriculture, Flows, and Environment) to provide certainty for both the environment and local water supply in Eastern Merced County.

The plan would provide increased flows using science to dictate the amounts and timing, restore critical sections of habitat for spawning and rearing juvenile salmon, protect local drinking water quality, upgrade an existing salmon hatchery with state-of-the-art facilities and reduce predation.

Based on in-depth science and technologically advanced computer modeling, MID seeks to take immediate action and dramatically benefit salmon on the Merced River.

- **Functional Flows:** Science shows that functional flows have very promising benefits for fish as well agricultural and urban water users. Timed and tailored for specific purposes, functional flows can benefit species in ways that unimpaired flow requirements cannot. Examples abound of collaborative, innovative projects currently underway by local water agencies and stakeholders that include functional flows and non-flow solutions that reconnect land and water to restore habitat and address the full life cycle of species needs. These efforts contribute real benefits to ecosystem recovery while maintaining water supply reliability.

- **Economic Considerations:** The State Water Board has a statutory obligation to consider economic impacts when establishing water quality objectives that reasonably protect all beneficial uses of water. Having a robust economic analysis is critical. The board also has a policy obligation under the coequal goals to ensure its actions related to a revised Bay-Delta Plan increase water supply reliability and thereby allow for a healthy, growing agricultural and urban economy in California.

- **Consistency with State Policy:** ACWA urges the State Water Board to heed the governor's direction and recognize that achieving the coequal goals will lead to a more reliable water supply and healthy ecosystem. Pursuing the coequal goals should be a guiding principle for the board's decisions related to adopting a revised Bay-Delta Plan. The State Water Board also should ensure that its decisions on the Bay-Delta Plan enable, rather than obstruct, the implementation of the California Water Action Plan.

- **Leadership:** The best policy choice will come through the give and take of the negotiating process and the enlightened leadership of the State Water Board members. Ultimately, the board must establish water quality objectives that ensure the reasonable protection of all beneficial uses of water as it implements negotiated solutions. The State Water Board should actively engage in this work and lead in a manner that is grounded in an awareness of how its actions can affect the implementation of the California Water Action Plan and the achievement of the coequal goals.

ACWA and its members have taken a strong policy position in support of comprehensive solutions such as those outlined in the California Water Action Plan. We stand ready to work with the Brown Administration to pursue the collaborative and comprehensive approaches needed to ensure a future for California that includes a vibrant agricultural and urban economy and a healthy ecosystem.



February 17, 2017

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
Cal/EPA
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814-0100

RE: Comment Letter – 2016 Bay-Delta Plan Amendment & SED

Dear Ms. Townsend:

On behalf of the signatories to this letter, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the State Water Resources Control Board's 2016 Bay-Delta Plan Amendment and SED released September 15, 2016.

The business community supports a comprehensive solution to address the water supply and quality challenges in the San Francisco/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary. Unfortunately, a comprehensive solution for California is now being jeopardized by the "unimpaired flow" approach proposed by the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) in the above referenced proposal. "Unimpaired flow" refers to the concept of a theoretical percentage of all runoff occurring in real-time in a watershed over the course of a year.

More specifically, the "unimpaired flow" approach will release critical water in storage and prevent the diversion of water throughout California, which will significantly affect precious water supplies for businesses, local communities and the environment throughout California. This is particularly true in dry years like the last five.

The proposal will have a devastating impact on drinking water, sanitation needs, food production, the economy and jobs for people stretching from the upper Central Valley throughout the Bay Area. The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission predicts "significant" job and other economic losses as well as "more severe and more frequent water rationing" for its 2.6 million customers. It will also have serious implications in drought years and in post drought years when districts and landowners are trying to refill their systems and replenish groundwater. The Tuolumne River alone accounts for 85 percent of San Francisco's drinking

water and 55 percent of the drinking water used overall in the Silicon Valley and by the Alameda County Water Agency. A 30 percent to 50 percent reduction in water supplies from the San Joaquin River would be extremely difficult to replace unless more groundwater is pumped. However, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act will restrict how much water can be pumped based on basin sustainability.

According to an economic study prepared for the Merced Irrigation District, losses in the agricultural sector would range from \$127 million to \$231 million, decline in employment from between 587 and 970 full and part-time jobs, and a reduction in labor income ranging from \$37 million to \$59 million in the Merced area.¹ The proposal underestimates the degree of economic distress that it will have on the agricultural industry dependent on the San Joaquin River for their water supplies. Main street businesses will suffer a loss of revenue and nonfarm jobs as well as local governments who will see a significant decline in revenues that support essential services.

The state's Department of Water Resources (DWR) offered testimony at the January 3, 2017 public hearing indicating some of the shortcomings of the proposal. Amongst other comments, DWR pointed out that the proposal contains out of date and incomplete scientific information, contains erroneous information on water quality within the South Delta, makes unverified assumptions about its effects on groundwater sustainability and uses unimpaired flow standards not suited for real-time operations. The facts and science used to develop the proposal are unsupported and therefore should be set aside.

We believe the Board should abandon this flawed approach and instead encourage parties to develop voluntary agreements as called for in the California Water Action Plan and reiterated by the Governor in a September 19, 2016 letter to Chairwoman Marcus.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email (Valerie.nera@calchamber.com) or at (916) 444-6670.

California Chamber of Commerce
California Building Industry Association
California Business Properties Association
California Forestry Association
California League of Food Processors
Family Winemakers of California
Fresno Chamber of Commerce
Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce
NAIOP Commercial Real Estate Development Association – Southern California Chapter
Orange County Business Council
Ripon Chamber of Commerce
Western Growers Association

cc: Catalina Hayes-Bautista, Office of the Governor
The Honorable Adam Gray
The Honorable Vince Fong
The Honorable Cathleen Galgiani
John Kennedy, Assembly Republican Caucus
Todd Moffitt, Senate Republican Caucus

¹ Cardno and Highland Economics, 2016. Estimated Economic Impacts of Reduced Water Availability on the Merced Irrigation District. Cardno, Sacramento CA; Highland Economics, Portland Oregon.



July 23, 2015

Ms. Felicia Marcus, Chair
 Members of the Board
 State Water Resources Control Board
 P.O. Box 100
 Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Re: Unimpaired Flows

Dear Chair Marcus and Members of the Board:

The broad coalition of undersigned public water agencies and water companies in every part of California call on the State Water Resources Control Board to abandon its effort to advance an “unimpaired flow” or similar approach to water management in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and San Francisco Bay, including the Water Quality Control Plan process.

Our coalition supports and is implementing progressive and innovative 21st century water management for 39 million people within the stable framework of California’s well-established water rights system. Four consecutive dry years have revealed the fallacy of attempting to mimic “unimpaired flows” to protect beneficial uses in present-day California. In fact, if the “unimpaired flow” approach was in place over the past five years, precious water resources would have already been drained from reservoirs throughout California before we entered these past several dry years. As a result, there would be even less water available in 2015 for the benefit of all beneficial uses, which includes cities and rural communities, fire suppression, cold water to sustain salmon, farms, birds and the Pacific Flyway, and recreational opportunities. Stated another way, an “unimpaired flow” approach would create greater risk for all beneficial uses during dry years. This dynamic would be further exacerbated under the various climate change scenarios evaluated by your administration. We cannot afford to go back in time and rely on defunct measures like an “unimpaired flow” approach for a system that has been highly altered over time. This type of approach will not improve the highly altered system and will only prove to deplete upstream reservoirs that all of California relies on.

We instead urge you and the administration to pursue a different and more practical approach--as called for in your California Water Action Plan--to improve flow regimes that will increase and sustain native fish populations through programs of implementation. This will include both strategic re-managed flows and other non-flow measures such as addressing the predation of native species by invasive species, which appears to be the largest factor that negatively affects salmon in the Central Valley. California needs a progressive approach that will empower 21st century water resources management to support a vibrant economy and environment.

We look forward to discussing new approaches with you in more detail at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Jeff Kightlinger
Metropolitan Water District

Steve Knell
San Joaquin River Tributaries Authority

Stefanie Morris
State Water Contractors

Dan Masnada
Castaic Lake Water Agency

Tom Birmingham
Westlands Water District

John Sweigard
Merced Irrigation District

Steve Knell
Oakdale Irrigation District

Jill Duerig
Zone 7 Water Agency

Roger Van Hoy
Modesto Irrigation District

Steve Emrich
South San Joaquin Irrigation District

Beau Goldie
Santa Clara Valley Water District

David Guy
Northern California Water Association

John Woodling
Regional Water Authority

Dan Nelson
San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority

Ray Stokes
Central Coast Water Authority

Jim Beck
Kern County Water Agency

Kirby Brill
Mojave Water Agency

Mike Gilkey
Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District

Art Godwin
Turlock Irrigation District

cc: Tom Howard

Michael Lauffer

Michael George

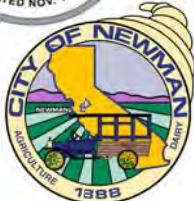
Natural Resources Agency



Merced County Office of Education



City of
Los Banos
At the Crossroads of California



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 15, 2016

Media Contacts

For Stanislaus County: David Jones | David.Jones@stancounty.com | 209.652.1177

For Merced County: Mike North | MNorth@co.merced.ca.us | 209.726.2744

Broad coalition stands together against state water grab

Multi-county region calls for better analyses, improved process and mitigation of impacts

Today, after much delay and with nominal input from or response to our communities, the State Water Resources Control Board released its revised Draft Substitute Environmental Document (SED) in support of Phase 1 of its Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan.

The broad coalition of local governments and organizations listed above is greatly disappointed that the State Water Board and its consultants have rejected numerous requests from our region to discuss the

assumptions and data underlying the SED's analyses and recommendations. No other agency would be permitted to conduct a multi-year study, at the cost of tens of millions of taxpayer dollars, and fail to even discuss its assumptions with those who stand to be impacted by its recommendations. The release of this new environmental document marks a failure to engage in serious technical analyses of environmental, social, economic, educational and cultural impacts with those to be affected in this region.

Our region has never been more united on this issue, and these coalition members stand together in opposition of the SED as currently drafted. We will continue to analyze the voluminous updated SED carefully in order to fully understand the depths that the State Water Board will go to harm our region on the whim of possibly benefitting the Delta and salmon.

Groundwater and Drinking Water

Despite a groundwater crisis that resulted in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in 2014, as well as continued drought impacts, the State Water Board desires even more water from one of California's most challenged regions. Groundwater is the drinking water source for most of the 800,000 residents of this multi-county region. The 2012 SED ignored the well-documented recharge value of irrigation water, and was unable to account for the state's new groundwater laws and groundwater pumping increases resulting from the drought. If this proposal is implemented, this region will be severely vulnerable in the effort to achieve state-mandated groundwater sustainability.

Many of our communities already face significant drinking water quality and quantity issues. These were ignored in the 2012 SED. The regulatory taking that's recommended in the SED will threaten the ability to provide surface water for drinking to the cities of Turlock, Ceres and other communities. It also directly undermines efforts to maintain groundwater quality in disadvantaged communities that don't have surface water.

Economics

If implemented, the proposal shuts down any hope of economic growth in this multi-county region, eliminates swaths of agricultural employment, thwarts job creation and creates enormous funding challenges for schools, cities, public health, law enforcement and other essential public services.

Our region is among the most economically challenged in the entire state. We have some of the highest unemployment rates, a multitude of health challenges, and the lowest educational achievement rates in all of California.

This water grab by the state of California, without mitigation or due analysis of impacts, will be vigorously opposed by this coalition. Our organizations will continue to review the updated SED carefully. We resolve to strongly oppose the SED in every possible venue unless its impacts are fully mitigated.

Coalition List

In Stanislaus County:

City of Ceres
City of Hughson
City of Modesto
City of Newman
City of Oakdale
City of Patterson
City of Riverbank
City of Turlock
City of Waterford
County of Stanislaus
El Concilio
Modesto Chamber of Commerce
Modesto Irrigation District
Oakdale Irrigation District
Turlock Irrigation District
Stanislaus County Farm Bureau
Stanislaus County Office of Education

In Merced County:

City of Atwater
City of Gustine
City of Livingston
City of Los Banos
City of Merced
County of Merced
Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce
Merced County Farm Bureau
Merced County Office of Education
Merced Irrigation District

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The State Water Resources Control Board is proposing regulations that will send another 350,000 acre-feet of California's limited water out to sea – *that's enough water to irrigate over 100,000 acres of farmland or meet the domestic needs of 2 million people for a year.*

If implemented, this rule will have a devastating impact on farms, schools, the economy and the health of California residents with absolutely no evidence that it will achieve its intended goal.

That's why this regulation is opposed by schools, health departments, farmers, cities, economic development officials and more.

Drinking Water Quality and Availability Will Be Negatively Impacted

"Let us be clear. The detrimental impacts of the Board's plan will be felt strongly by the children that we serve. . . it is unclear why you have not taken the time to study the financial implications to school districts that would be forced to provide bottled water and portable toilets, or relocate schools entirely, as wells go dry. . . Access to drinking water and water for sanitation is a basic requirement for us to fulfill our mandate to provide quality education to the children of our districts."

Steven Gomes, Merced County Superintendent of Schools
Tom Changnon, Stanislaus County Superintendent of Schools

"Many communities in the Merced area are already experiencing well production problems and drinking water quality issues . . . Over 800,000 people live in the two counties [Stanislaus and Merced]. Groundwater is the primary source of drinking water for the majority of the local population. The plan sorely understates the devastation this recommendation will cause. As an Interim Director of Environmental Health, I am required to ensure that safe, adequate, and dependable water supplies are available for domestic use."

Vicki Jones, Interim Director of Environmental Health
Merced County Department of Public Health

Jobs and the Economy Will Suffer

"The consequences of these cutbacks potentially could cripple our Bay Area economy. Our initial economic analysis of the first iteration of this plan forecast up to 51 percent rationing, resulting in 140,000 to 188,000 jobs lost in the Bay Area."

Harlan L. Kelly Jr., General Manager, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
Nicole Sandkulla, CEO and General Manager, Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency.

"I am all for protecting the environment to the best of our ability, but not at the expense of our farmers, businesses and citizens. . . When farmers are forced to fallow more land, our food prices go up and the poor in our communities suffer the greatest. This proposal will raise the cost of water and electricity, as well."

Pamela LaChapell
Modesto

"As the Director of Environmental Resources for the County, I am responsible for the administration and oversight of over 200 public water systems, approximately 2,000 retail food facilities and countless other businesses. This would be devastating to the local economy."

Jami Aggers, Director of Environmental Resources
Stanislaus County

"We grew up in Stanislaus County and our parents, grandparents, and great grandparents were all farmers. . . We also are grateful that our children were raised here and their children will be raised here . . . Without water there will be many of us who will not be able to farm and those that work the fields and canneries during the harvest will be unemployed and unable to feed their families, buy clothing and supplies in our local stores. Our electricity costs will increase and our ground water will be depleted . . . we implore you to reconsider."

George and Annemarie Espinola
Hughson

"Food production is a multi-billion dollar industry in our county and adds tremendous value to the State of California. . . Tens of thousands of people are dependent on jobs in agriculture, food

processing, and its related industries. Our businesses pay millions of dollars in taxes each year to sustain our state government . . . We ask that you please consider our needs in the Central Valley with others' needs and wants."

David White, Chief Executive Officer
Stanislaus Business Alliance

And yet the Board wants to keep doing more of the same even though it has been proven ineffective

"Simply flushing water down the river in the spring and fall does not work - a fact supported by more than two decades of proven science."

Robbie Lake
French Camp

"I've lived on the Stanislaus for 40 years. Salmon are declining and the striped bass are increasing. What the state is doing is creating the opposite effect of what it says it wants."

Jeff McPhee
Oakdale

"[The proposed regulation] is yet another demonstration of the complete disregard you hold for the people you are supposed to be serving. . . I encourage you to reduce your personal water use by 35% and pour that extra water into the street and watch it flow away. That is what you would be doing to the people you serve."

Roxanne Garbez
Oakdale

"Releasing more water from reservoirs so it can flow through this highly altered system is not a salmon solution. A policy focus on this approach is a threat to the species. It will take restored habitat—upstream and downstream—and carefully timed flows to improve conditions for salmon, which is a policy and an approach that Metropolitan wholeheartedly supports."

Randy Record , Chairman, Board of Directors
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

People Are Asking for Common Sense, Balance and an End to Tactics That Just Make a Bad Situation Worse

"We need a common sense approach to how this water is used. . . In your efforts to help, you are creating a bigger problem than we had before."

Nancy Petersen
Hughson

"We have worked hard to be good citizens and lower our water usage in the face of this drought. In fact, the Central Valley has led the state in water conservation efforts . . . We implore you to send staff to meet with us and come up with a common sense approach to this situation."

David White, Chief Executive Officer
Stanislaus Business Alliance

"Why add water to the ocean? Does it need more?"

Suzy Fivecoat
Waterford

"It is time we manage our water resource in a way that is fair to everyone and strikes a balance between water supply and the environment."

Roseanna Swanberg
Modesto