

# California's economy grows where water flows

FIFTYYEARS AGO, PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY came to the Westside of the San Joaquin Valley to dedicate a new, federal-state water facility, the San Luis Project, which today provides water to farms and cities from the Bay Area to San Diego.

This is what President Kennedy said about the importance of water development for California's future.



*“Things do not happen. They are made to happen.*

*We are a very independent people. It is hard for us to agree on any course of action. We always have some different ideas about how that course of action can be made more perfect.*

*And yet, in this project one part of your state has been willing to help another part because they realize that as this state does well, so does the United States.*

*Nothing could be more disastrous for this country than for the citizens of one part of the state to feel that everything they have is theirs and that it should not be shared with the other citizens of this state. That is the way to stand still.*

*Progress represents the combined will of the American people. Only when they are joined together for action can this country move ahead.*

*We prepare the way for those who come after us.”*

IN THE FIFTYYEARS SINCE THAT EVENT, water from the San Luis Project has helped the San Joaquin Valley and the Silicon Valley to bloom and prosper. It has watered more than a million acres of California's richest farmlands, producing fresh fruit and vegetables for America and the world. It has created thousands of jobs. And today it supplies water to the homes of more than 25 million Californians.

The challenges we face have not changed in those fifty years. Neither have the opportunities that an abundant and reliable water supply can bring to California.

As before, Californians are discussing whether to move ahead with major improvements to our water system.

**Once again, we are called to prepare the way for those who come after us.**