



FWA
Family Water Alliance

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"Every Day is Earth Day on the Farm"

P. O. Box 365, Maxwell, California 95955

April 4, 2011

Katherine Hart, Chair
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114

RE: Comments on Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Framework

Dear Chair Hart:

Family Water Alliance is a non-profit grassroots voice dedicated to educating the public about issues that impact rural communities. Rural communities in the Central Valley of California are made up of farmers, ranchers and allied industries that grow the food that feeds our nation. Most importantly farmers need clean water and land to continue their dedication to providing safe, affordable food for families across the nation. The Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Framework will only prove to be counterproductive to improving water quality in the Valley.

First and foremost the existing program is working in the Sacramento Valley. Very few exceedances have been reported and when there have been water quality issues local stakeholders' works together to assure the issue is addressed. Local stakeholders including the growers, local Coalitions, Agricultural Commissioners, RCD's and other groups, such as Family Water Alliance, band together to assure that the agricultural community is informed about water quality in the region.

The most important thing to remember is that farmers need land and clean water to grow crops, so they have a vested interesting is assuring the natural resources are protected and done so in a way that provides for a balance between man and nature. The new framework exerts new regulations that will only prove to make the process more political than scientific. Bringing in other "interested stakeholders" who do not truly understand on the farm water quality practices will only force the current cost effective program to increase rates on growers for political reasons not based on the data found over the past few years.

In conclusion, I would ask all board members and staff to take a step back and talk to the farmers and ranchers that will be impacted by the changes. Most will say "if it's not broke don't fix it". While other interests would like to portray agriculture as a huge polluter the data shows otherwise. Family Water Alliance hopes that you address the costs, farm evaluations and multiple tiers issues in the Framework.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashley Indrieri". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ashley Indrieri
Chief Operations Officer

Cc:

FWA Board

Dr. Karl Longley, Regional Board Member

Dan Odenweller, Regional Board Member

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