



Denair Unified School District

Community • Excellence • Commitment

3460 Lester Road • Denair, CA 95316
209-632-7514 • Fax 209-632-9194

Dec. 19, 2016

Felicia Marcus, Chairwoman
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Dear Chairwoman Marcus,

I write on behalf of the hundreds of students and thousands of families who live within the Denair Unified School District and would be adversely affected by your board's stated intent to dramatically increase flows in our region's rivers.

Our community is dependent upon wells for the water for our homes, businesses and schools. Already during the current drought, some residential wells have failed, causing distress and financial hardship for those affected.

Recharging the aquifer is critical for long-term water sustainability. The orchards, farms and pastures that surround our district frequently use flood irrigation, an important component to healthy groundwater management. Your plan, unfortunately, would require the Turlock Irrigation District to substantially reduce surface water deliveries to those farmers, impeding groundwater recharge.

I also am concerned about the potential economic damage created by your plan and its effect on our schools. It has been estimated that thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in economic output would be lost under your proposal. The Northern San Joaquin Valley already is one of the poorest regions of California, with employment rates chronically in double digits. We cannot afford a blow with such widespread consequences.

I encourage you and your board to take a sensible approach to water management that appropriately balances many important needs – people, health and food production as well as fish and the environment. I ask you to identify and assess the potential impacts and offer viable proposals to mitigate against those detriments. I urge you to work with local water, agribusiness, political, community and school leaders to identify the best ways to accomplish your goals without bringing undue harm to our students, their families and the hard-working people of our region.

Respectfully,

Aaron Rosander,
Superintendent, Denair Unified School District