

BERTAGNA ORCHARDS, INC.
Complete Almond & Walnut Services

01302
JUN 29 1998

CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear CALFED Bay-Delta Program,

I am a Butte County almond farmer, who is totally dependent upon wells and groundwater for my farm and my home. Like many thousands of other farmers in Northern California, I am concerned that our water supply, the economy and environment of our area will be compromised by conjunctive use and transfers.

Water Transfers: All impact risks must be studied in detail before transfers are considered; i.e. subsidence, contamination, reduced water availability for native vegetation, water availability in both deep and shallow wells, and social and financial impacts to rural communities.

Transfers enlarge the notion that there is an abundance of water, thereby expanding tree and vine agriculture to non-prime areas, and encouraging urban development in areas where there is no water supply. This establishes "critical need", when water must absolutely be furnished at all times, drought or no drought. This would escalate risk to regions rather than stabilize water supplies for reliability. Water transfers should only be crisis based by some objective measure.

Subsidence: Subsidence is a real risk of water extraction and is irreversible. Who will pay for the damaged roads, bridges, pipelines, wells, other structures, and later flooding? We are at risk in Butte County.

Water transferred or sold will be interpreted that the water is unnecessary and surplus. It will continue to be transferred whether we need it or not. We will lose it.

Water Rights: Correlative water rights which entitles each overlying landowner to a fair and just proportion of a common pool, must be a part of the water rights included by CALFED. Also, the "no injury" rule must be adhered to.

Baselines must be established to protect groundwater rights. If people want to sell their surface water and take it out of the region, they should not be allowed to pump replacement water. Their surface water has been an established part of the groundwater recharge for over 70 years. Exporting water hurts the area of origin, whose water integrity should be protected.

Storage: We need more water in California. To meet this need, of-stream storage or dams are needed. Otherwise there is no new water, just a re-shuffling. Transfers are a taking away from someone and giving to another. In Northern California, water not used by one goes downstream to the next user, and finally to the Delta where it is used under any other program.

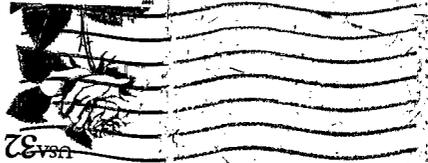
Desalination must be considered as a water source. When the cost of a third party impacts economic and social services, desalination must be considered as an alternative. Technology is here, and costs are realistic.

Through-Delta Facility: A prerequisite of any type of this must be the construction and installation of off-stream storage reservoirs, both north and south of the Delta. Thank you for taking time to listen to our concerns.

Sincerely,

3329 Hegan Lane • Chico, CA 95928 • 916 335-1901 • Bertagna Orchards, Inc. 0279

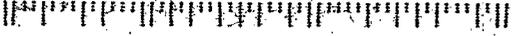
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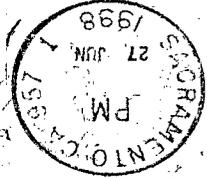
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CARFED Day Delta Program
1416 North Street, Suite 1155
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