CalFed 9-22-99

I LISTENED TO FARMERS TALK ABOUT BALANCE
I'M A FARMER - WHEN IT COME'S TO THE
SAN JOAQUIN RIVER THERE IS NO BALANCE. THE
RIVER HAS BEEN DRY FOR OVER 50 YEARS BELOW
WHERE I LIVE NEAR KERMAN. 98% OF THE
WATER IS DIVERTED.
WE ARE OVER PLANTING TREES, VINES, MELONS
COTTON - EVERYTHING CREATING SURPLUSES OVER
PRODUCING TO THE POINT OVER A MILLION
FARMERS HAVE LOST THERE FARMS IN THE
LAST DECADE DUE TO LOW PRICES NOT BECAUSE
THEY WERE BAD FARMERS OR LACK OF WATER
ONE FARMER MENTIONED IN DETAIL HOW MANY
HEADS OF LETTUCE, MELONS - OTHER CROPS HE
COULD RAISE WITH THE WATER GOING TO RESTORATION
OF RIVERS AND WILD LIFE. ON MY WAY TO THE
COAST I BELIEVE I SAW ENOUGH MELONS DISCED
UNDER TO COVER MOST OF THE WATER HE WAS
TALKING ABOUT "NO PRICE". WHAT A SHAME!
WASTE OF WATER FERTILIZER, PESTICIDES AND
FUEL — YES WE NEED A BALANCE.
ALSO WE DON'T HAVE TO SPEND MONEY TO BUILD
LAKE'S FOR UNDER GROUND STORAGE - ALL WE HAVE TO DO
IS PUT SOME WATER BACK INTO OUR DRY RIVERS AND
STREAM BEDS THAT MOTHER NATURE CREATED - ITS FREE
THANKS Walt Shulein

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