

1042(2)

FROM THE DESK OF
JOHN GARNER

Dear Cal.Fed.

We sure did appreciate the good discussion we had with you about Colusa County Farm Bureau concerns in Colusa, the State, and the Nation.

In our discussion, I pointed out that we need to keep telling our story about the importance of Calif. Ag. in our Nation. I know the rest of Ag. in the U.S. is somewhat jealous of Calif. Ag., but it does not diminish the importance of it as far the Nation goes. Calif. supplies over half of the fresh fruits and vegetables and nuts for our Nation and has set the standard for food safety, and water quality. We are the most regulated food source in the world, and one of the last places in the world that raises our fresh fruits, nuts, and vegetables with clean water, and harvest the same with clean water. When I hear Congress balk at new storage, and endorses the Cal Fed plan to increase the water supplied to the environment for habitat enhancement, it seems to me that the one holding this attitude is shooting this Nation in the foot. I believe we need to help the environment, and we should, but not by jeopardizing our nations supply of fresh clean fruits and produce. In wet years the balance can work, but to achieve it during dry years, we need more storage. Our Mediterranean type climate that makes this production possible just cannot be moved or duplicated in any other region of our Nation. Keeping Calif. Ag. whole is a National concern. Let us not be held host by other countries with our fresh food supply like we are sometimes with our oil supply. We need to keep our Nation informed on this issue. All our citizens have a stake in the wellbeing of Ag. in Calif. Please spread the word and let Congress know that by opposing water storage in Calif. has a negative impact on all the people of the United States.

We need more Storage today, and if we started building it today, we would probably still be short of water when the project was complete in 15 or 20 years. Spending more money to study this is a waste of taxpayers money, and when they find out how much you have spent on just studying it, and a few unproven feel good projects that may do more harm to the environment than good, you may well find yourself in a tax payer backlash that may prevent any real solutions. We need real LEADERSHIP. In our industry, we have to find solution to our problems, and then impliment them in the most cost effective manner. I am not sure Cal. Fed. has the will, or the leadership to look at the hard, long term solutions, and then go foreward. Why not come up with a panel of citizens picked from a jury type pool, at random, and give them the problems, and give them the choices of solutions, and the economic, social, and environmental impacts of each, and lets see what approach they would come up with to keep Calif. viable for the next 100 years. The way I see it, if you cannot come up with something much more concrete than what you have, then we are wasting our taxpayers money. Answer these questions. How much water do you need?, and Where are you going to get it from? Put those figures on the table, and lets get on with the negotiations. And also, to make this work without a fight, we have to change the E.S.A. so that one water use does not take priority over another when we have determined how much water each group is entitled to. If after all this, you do not see

the need for new storage, then you may as well all go home and save the taxpayers alot of money. This will also let us save, and prepare for the largest water war in the history of our nation. All I can say is: SHOW SOME LEADERSHIP!

Sincerely,

