

commentletters

From: Kauba, Amy@Waterboards
Sent: Monday, October 03, 2016 11:17 AM
To: McGann, Angelina@Waterboards
Subject: FW: Fish before farmers?



From: Dadamo, Dorene@Waterboards
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2016 7:55 AM
To: Kauba, Amy@Waterboards
Subject: Fwd: Fish before farmers?

Begin forwarded message:

From: Keith Livak <keithlivak91@yahoo.com>
Date: September 29, 2016 at 9:09:37 AM PDT
To: <Dorene.DAdamo@waterboards.ca.gov>
Subject: Fish before farmers?

I'm Keith Livak, I'm 25 and farm in Hilmar alongside my dad. We run a small family farm, growing almonds, alfalfa, and corn. I started driving tractors when I was 9 years old and have known from that day forward that I wanted to be a farmer when I grew up. Farming is my passion, this is all I know and love. Taking this water away not only means taking my dream of farming away but also means taking this dream away from so many of my fellow farmers. What you're asking is outrageous. Not only is there insufficient data to prove that more water flowing through rivers will provide more fish but more importantly you are putting fish before human lives. I can prove to you that if given a full allotment of water how much I can produce through the various crops I grow. Taking this water away won't just hurt the farmers in this valley, it will have devastating effects on this state. Agriculture is the life blood of this state and we need water to continue to grow our crops. These past few years have been extremely hard for all of us farmers, it's taking its toll not having our full allotment of water and every year gets harder and harder for us to survive. Now we are being punished for conserving our water through these years with insufficient rainfall? That is not fair. The water was conserved so that we could continue to farm each year, not to have you wake up one day and decide that we don't have the right to it anymore. Taking this water away is basically signing a death warrant for farmers like me that depend on it to make a living. I truly hope that you think of the drastic effects that would come from taking this water away.