



Comment Letter - 2016 Bay-Delta Plan Amendment & SED
Fact Check - Reduced Harvested Acres Means Reduced Employment

Every time there is a threat to the status quo of agriculture, the supporters roll out the employment loss argument. A review of the recent facts should suggest greater scrutiny in the future of these employment loss claims. From 2011 to 2015, harvested acreage in California decreased by about 1,049,400 acres. With acreage losses primarily in field crops which are less labor intensive.

California Crop Acreage		
Crop	2011	2015
Corn For Grain & Silage	625,000	425,000
Cotton	454,000	162,000
Hay/Greenchop	1,410,000	1,180,000
Other Field	329,900	241,000
Rice	580,000	421,000
Wheat	530,000	210,000
Field	3,928,900	2,639,000
Berries	47,600	55,000
Citrus	267,600	271,800
Fruit	332,000	302,000
Grapes	845,000	868,000
Tree Nuts	1,221,600	1,436,000
Fruit & Nuts	2,713,800	2,932,800
Melons	58,000	48,600
Vegetables	923,300	954,200
Vegetables & Melons	981,300	1,002,800
Total	7,624,000	6,574,600
Change		(1,049,400)

Contrary to popular opinion, the acreage decreases did not reduce employment. In fact from 2011 to 2015, employment in the California agriculture sector increased by about 48,639.

Employment in the California Agriculture Sector				
NAICS Code	Industry	2011	2015	Change
111	Crop production	170,333	176,528	6,195
112	Animal production	29,140	28,478	(662)
1151	Support activities for crops	182,280	208,809	26,529
1152	Support activities for animals	2,849	2,814	(35)
311	Food manufacturing	148,315	154,209	5,894
31212/3/4	Breweries/Wineries/Distillers	30,163	40,881	10,718
	Total	563,080	611,719	48,639

For verification, the crop and employment data are from the following sources:

Data Sources:

1. **Crop Data:** <https://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do>
2. **Labor Data:** <http://www.bls.gov/cew/datatoc.htm>