



Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I St., 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814-0100

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Senator
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Denham, Congressman
1730 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Mr. Adam Gray, California Assemblyman
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0021

March 15th, 2017

Dear State Water Resources Control Board and Local Government Leaders;

Regarding the proposed Plan Amendment and the SED of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Plan.

Personal Introduction:

My name is Bill Daly. I work for an agricultural supply firm, of which my personal duties include caring for the nutritional requirements of ruminant livestock.

My wife, MaryAnn and I farm a small acreage very near the town of Denair. We graze cattle and sheep. Our property is within the Turlock Irrigation District and we flood irrigate the land. The land is laser leveled allowing us to time the beginning and ending of each irrigation. The water percolates through the soil rapidly and within 2 days there is no standing water at the ends of the fields for mosquitoes to call home. We have close neighbors, so our farming practices are designed to be as compatible for them as possible. The pastures are permanent so working the soil is not necessary, the northern bred cattle breeds and the southern bred sheep combination, consumes most all the growing vegetation.

My passion and concern for children's health have lead me to be an active participant in Federal food policy review and renewal, over the last 25 years+. During that period (until just recently) children have increasingly been acquiring life threatening diseases, before reaching puberty, "to the contrary in the livestock business, where we thrive to have animals fully healthy at puberty so they can then, care for themselves and are fit, to produce for a profitable business".

Water, food, food policy & health, my remaining thoughts will be along these lines.

Those few words (water, food, food policy & health) are small but they hold so much promise for the American People. We must honor and respect each of those treasures, thrive to achieve complete understanding of them and follow sound leadership.

I would like to share 5 chronological points of light, highlighting the value of our water/food relationship.

- ✚ In 1992, We were fortunate to learn about an effort to standardize nutrition labels across the country. The Nutrition and Labeling act would have voided the California milk standards. Those standards would have reverted to the Federal standards. California milk standards were enforced by our State, supported by the dairy industry and consumers alike. Reverting to Federal standards would have depreciated the value of our milk and continued a deterioration of our food supply.

I mention this for two reasons;

First, many people from our area, industry and government officials came together in a grass-roots effort to support the reliability and economic values of this good food. As food producers, our reputation for wholesome, is meaningful.

Secondly, The Clinton Administration, with leadership from the 1st Lady and Congress made our CA milk standards lawful, thus making an early statement & support for health, thru food policy.

- ✚ Fast forward passed the 911 events to the 1st few months of the Obama Administration. Our new 1st lady wasted little time making her Victory Garden on the south lawn of the White House. The garden became a guiding light for the effort of diminishing food deserts. It encouraged community and school gardens nation-wide. Ms. Obama went on to address the missing nutrients in our manufactured food supply, addressed obesity trends and asked for food based answers to our health concerns, amongst many other initiatives.

Our region, that this letter is addressing the water needs of, is a National Victory Garden, able to produce in abundance.

- ✚ USDA & FDA have worked well together during the Obama Administration, targeting our health concerns. They developed Choose My Plate. Identified the at risk nutrients of salt, sugar, and portion size. They had the courage to press forward with helpful labels, addressing specific recommendations for limiting those items or listing their inclusion. On the USDA plate scheme, fruits, vegetables, and milk are prevalent. Fruits, vegetables & milk are produced prolifically in this area we are addressing, year around. Also of note, dairy cattle utilize the bi-products (waste/culls) of fruit and vegetables while fruit and vegetable crops utilize composted livestock waste as a soil amendment.

- ✚ The California Water Infrastructure Legislation, signed this last December, is surely a guiding light. Painstaking, gut wrenching decisions by highly knowledgeable leaders and the Presidency.

- ✚ Vision for the next 25 years.

An avalanche of young adults, from all walks of life are going to be coming out the woodwork with a passion for the environment, for good food, for good health, for sustainability. They have grown up working school gardens, trained on school farms, or have witnessed the effects of poor food choices. They will want to save the world and we need to allow them to do that.

We need to leave the tools, including water, for these young people to pursue their passion. Using your knowledge and recognizing the hard-fought, points of light mentioned previously, please design a plan with a reasonable allotment of water, for the future.

I want to thank the leaders, mentioned in this letter, for their points-of-light, garnered through their effort and thoughtful decisions.

I want to thank the hundreds of local volunteers, ag education venues, school districts and industry leaders that allowed for a grass-roots effort to gain recognition and protect the values of our food.

Thank you, to the State Water Resources Control Board for the extended time allotted to submit my thoughts on this matter.

Sincerely,
William M. Daly

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