

Good Morning/^{WPM an}Afternoon Chairman ~~man~~ Marcus, Members of the Board,

My name is Breanne Ramos and I am the Executive Director of the Merced County Farm Bureau, representing over 1,200 farming, ranching and dairy families within our county, many of who sit behind me today. I come before to you to share our grave concerns with the proposal you have presented.

^{BY}
~~Aside from~~ scheduling the meetings during the holidays, you've not only impacted the lives of my members, but also those that they employ. Most of who travel to family at a great distance. On the heels of our California Legislature raising not only minimum wage, but also altering agriculture overtime, this governing body is bringing to question if that ^{MATTERS} would even matter? As without water, these employees will no longer be employed here.

Many of our communities are disadvantaged, yet this proposal will remove fresh drinking water from our families. As you know, the Merced Sub-basin has been declared ~~as~~ critically over-drafted. While our leaders are coming together to solve the issue and work to ^{COMPLY} ~~compliance~~, this plan will cease all progression. Removal of surface water from our river will not allow for us to offset the loss that has occurred. Essentially, you are declaring our GSPs inadequate before they are written.

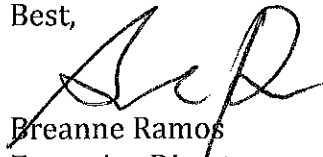
New Exchequer Dam was built on the backs of many of the families that still call Merced County home and I am happy to say that Merced County Farm Bureau played a large role in the beginning stages of the dam. Since its initial operation, Merced Irrigation District has managed the Merced River as good stewards. We encourage you to review and select the Merced River SAFE Plan instead of the proposal that was presented today.

Time and time again, agriculture has bended. We have adapted to new technology and practices so that more can be done with less. As we are approaching our 100th year of service, I would hope that MCFB is able to celebrate another 100. Our

economy, agriculture makeup and community will be drastically affected should you elect to adopt this proposal.

Thank you for your time.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Breanne Ramos', written over the printed name.

Breanne Ramos
Executive Director
Merced County Farm Bureau