

Merced County Farm Bureau

April 10, 2015

Assemblymember Adam Gray
PO Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0021

RE: Letter of Support for AB 1242

Assemblymember Gray:

On behalf of Merced County Farm Bureau's Board of Directors I would like to express our support for AB 1242. This bill will attempt to fully mitigate the detrimental and irreversible impacts that will occur with the proposed State Water Resources Control Board's Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan (Bay-Delta Plan) and make it impossible to successfully achieve the mandates set forth in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA).

MCFB was created in 1917 with the purpose of improving the ability of individuals engaged in production agriculture to utilize California resources to produce food and fiber in the most profitable, efficient and responsible manner possible guaranteeing our nation a domestic food supply. Water continues to be a key component to the success and viability of our agricultural communities.

The proposed Bay Delta Plan will increase unimpaired flows to at least 35 percent which equates to a 350,000 acre-foot reduction to our current surface water supply on the Merced, Stanislaus and Tuolumne Rivers. You, Mr. Gray are one of the few elected officials in office who have recognized that this "significant and unavoidable" proposal will make it impossible to effectively achieve a sustainable groundwater plan mandated by SGMA. This comes from the fact that when there is less surface water available farming operations tend to rely on the groundwater table as a reserve bank as well as the lack of surface water reduces the amount of recharge occurring in the region for the benefit of ag and domestic users alike.

We believe the proposed AB 1242 provides the necessary protection and mitigation opportunities to assist the Central Valley in adequately surviving the taking that will occur with the Bay-Delta Plan's current proposal. It will also make it possible for our economically deprived communities to achieve a Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan in the timeframe set forth. We urge the passage of AB 1242 immediately.

Sincerely,



Bob Giampaoli
President