



Garrad Marsh, Mayor
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March 31, 2015

Re: Letter of Support – AB 1242

Dear Committee Members,

As you know, the State Water Resources Control Board is planning to issue an updated Substitute Environmental Document for the Bay-Delta Program in the near future. As presently drafted, the Board's plan undermines efforts to secure groundwater sustainability, is unequal in application, and will significantly distress California's most disadvantaged economic region. The State Water Board proposal will devastate the groundwater basins in the Central Valley by reducing surface water recharge opportunities and eliminating surface water deliveries to domestic and agricultural water users. This one decision will have a greater impact on our economy, public health, drinking water, and way of life than any other single issue confronting the Legislature.

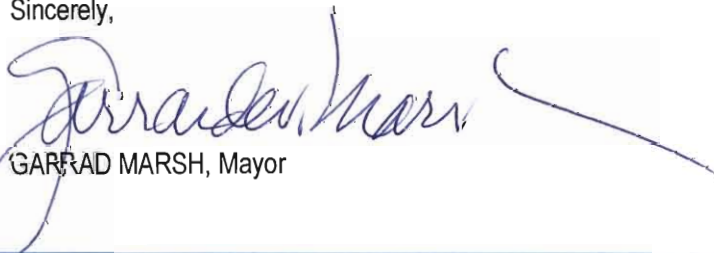
It's been estimated that the proposed 35% increase in unimpaired flows would cost our area at minimum 350,000 acre-feet of water every year. Irrigation water is the most essential component of groundwater recharge in our basins. It is ironic that after the State's groundbreaking adoption of a groundwater sustainability law, the State agency responsible for water resources proposes to devastate basins in the region where groundwater management will be most difficult.

The State Water Board has also been authorized to monitor and impose groundwater sustainability plans in all of the endangered groundwater basins. With this drastic reduction of available irrigation water, it will be impossible for our area to reach true groundwater sustainability.

Assembly Bill 1242 requires that the Board mitigate the adverse impact of any new water quality control plan affecting the groundwater basins because of any increase in flows from our local rivers, or the plan cannot be implemented. It also prohibits adoption of any plan that with adverse impacts that cannot be sufficiently mitigated.

We offer our strongest support to Assembly Bill 1242 in effort to protect our local economy, public health, drinking water, and way of life. Again, this one decision will have a greater impact on our local area than any other single issue confronting the Legislature.

Sincerely,



GARRAD MARSH, Mayor