

## Capper, Adam

---

**From:** Bob Kelley <wildcatkel@stevinsoncorp.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2015 3:44 PM  
**To:** Capper, Adam  
**Subject:** support for AD1242

I am writing on behalf of the Stevinson Water District and our landowners. Our District provides surface irrigation water to 2 other water districts and thousands of acres of adjacent wetland habitat. We provide surface water to some 20,000 acres in the confluences of the Merced and San Joaquin Rivers. The source of this water is the Merced River watershed, stored behind Lake McClure. Our average surface water diversions are 30,000 AF. In addition we supplement this with 10,000 AF of groundwater. Our primary crops are alfalfa, corn, sweet potatoes, and orchards. Many of our crops are used in the production of dairy products. Merced County is 3rd largest dairy producing county in California. However, the farmers that are responsible for this industry are being threatened with the State Water Board's quality control plan proposal. We are increasingly becoming more efficient with our application of water as the scarcity of this resource and economics require it. We rely on the conjunctive use of both surface and groundwater.

The State Water Board's proposal is to develop **additional** 350,000 acre feet of unimpaired flow requirements on the Tuolumne, the Merced, and the Stanislaus rivers. If this proposal passes it will have devastating effects on the groundwater basin in the Merced County and San Joaquin Valley, both identified as seriously impacted by groundwater availability. It would reduce surface water recharge and eliminate surface water deliveries to agricultural water users. The recently passed groundwater sustainability legislation requires groundwater users to develop and implement sustainable groundwater plans by the year 2020. We are in the worst drought in anyone's memory and this proposal, if implemented, will have a devastating effect on efforts to comply with this new legislation.

This proposal of an additional 350,000 acre feet annually from the Tuolumne, the Merced, and the Stanislaus rivers is baffling to myself and many local growers. Given California's current drought situation, a problem that has no end in sight, it would be imprudent to move forward with this plan. Instead, California needs to move forward with additional storage and related infrastructure such as Temperance Flat; a surface storage facility that would yield 183,000 acre feet of water annually.

The proposal deeply resonates with the growers of our District. In short, it undermines efforts to secure groundwater sustainability, is unequal in application, and will significantly distress California's most disadvantaged economic region. Farmers are stewards of the land, it is our duty to preserve our farms for future generations while producing high quality product for an ever growing U.S. and world population. The State Water Board's proposal would seriously undermine our efforts.

We whole heartedly support this AB 1242 for all the above reasons.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Kelley, G. M. Stevinson Water District