



Stanislaus County Farm Bureau

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April 8, 2015

Assemblymember Adam Gray
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0021

RE: Stanislaus County Farm Bureau SUPPORT for AB 1242

Dear Mr. Gray,

The Stanislaus County Farm Bureau represents over 3,200 members in Stanislaus County including over 1,700 farmers and ranchers. Stanislaus County is the 7th largest agricultural producing county in California and the United States.

Our members have survived many challenges with the weather and market forces over our 101 years of existence. At the heart of that opportunity is a unique location between three major rivers – the Stanislaus, the Tuolumne and the San Joaquin.

Our local water agencies have been excellent stewards of our precious resources. Our county has been a leader in responding to and formulating a plan of action to deal with the challenges before us from the current drought situation and into the future. Stanislaus County is at the table.

We find it counterproductive and counterintuitive for state and federal agencies to require increased river flows with a known “significant and unavoidable impact” that may require potentially 25% more groundwater extraction and also pass laws that potentially restrict the use of the same underlying groundwater resources. This flies in the face of the definition of ‘conjunctive use’ in the State Water Code.

WE SUPPORT AB 1242. The statutory clarity and intent of AB 1242 state that, *“10720.9 ... All relevant agencies ... shall consider the policies of this part, and any groundwater sustainability plans adopted pursuant to this part, when revising or adopting policies, regulations, or criteria, or when issuing orders of determinations, where pertinent.”*

Simply put, AB 1242 is common sense. AB 1242 makes agencies take a look at the entire BIG PICTURE before they make individual rulings.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to supporting you and your staff in support of AB 1242.

Sincerely,

Joey Gonsalves
President