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SAN JOAQUIN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

MEETING TODAY'S CHALLENGES / PLANNING FOR TOMORROW

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT OF THE CALIF WATER PLAN, BULLETIN 160

The California Department of Water Resources, DWR, has issued a Public Review Draft of an updated California Water Plan which purports to plan for California's water needs for the next 25 years. The plan is in serious violation of Farm Bureau policy. It would be a disaster for agriculture, and for the production of the food and fiber needed by the growing population. A copy of the Public Review Draft can be obtained on the Internet at http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov.

ATTEND THE PUBLIC HEARING AND MAKE ORAL OR WRITTEN COMMENTS. The hearing is from 1:00 to 4:30 P.M. on Thursday, June 16, at the Tracy Community Center, 400 10th St.

- The Plan is not in compliance with legal requirements in the Water Code: It does not determine the gap between the future water needs and the water that will be available so it is impossible to determine the adequacy of the proposed measures. It does not determine measures to eliminate the statewide overdraft of groundwater.

- Agricultural Code 411 mandates that the Water Plan must plan for an adequate farm water supply so that there will be no reliance on a net importation of food. It ignores this requirement.

- The Plan will result in a decrease of more than 10% in water available to agriculture. This means agriculture will have less water to produce food and other essential farm products for the 11 million people we will add to the state in 25 years.

- The failure of the Plan to provide this water would therefore result in a future reliance on a net import of food, and does not mention the national security risks that reliance on food imports would cause.

- The Plan estimates future water needs by the long-term extrapolation of "current trends", regardless of the plausibility of the extrapolation. If a 26-year-old man eats 25% less than he did when he was a 16-year-old teenager, this method of forecasting would predict that the man would need no food when he is 56 years old! The inadequacy of the Plan is obscured by relying on this method of forecasting future need.

- The Plan states that the legal requirements will be met sometime in the future in some future update. So next time the CHP pulls you over, just say you plan to comply with the laws sometime in the future!

P.O. BOX 8444 • 3290 NORTH AD ART ROAD • (209) 931-4931 • STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA 95208