

Food production in California depends on regular sources of water and saving good farm land from development. The county of Shasta and the State of California are behind in saving these valuable resources.

Let me explain.

I first moved to California in 1948 when my grandmother had a stroke and my father moved us to Los Gatos to live with her. I remember the orchards and farms all around San Jose. My grandmother owned a small orchard. We even dried pears and apricots on tin pans on her roof.

We later lived in San Lorenzo the last suburb outside of Oakland where my father worked. When we drove to Los Gatos on the weekends we used to stop at farms on the way to buy local produce.

Much later when I attended San Jose State there were still some orchards and commercial drying companies in the county. I remember touring one of these facilities.

I have lived in Kansas, Wisconsin, and North Carolina before returning to California in 1989. What a shock, to see the wonderful farms and country side full of houses and apartments.

In 1990 I attended several sessions presented by Shasta College about **California 2020**. I was most impressed with Salano county and their forward thinking about the use of land and water in their county. It gave me hope that other counties would think about zoning the whole county for the future.

I guess Californians are just too spoiled and think that if you have money you can do what you want. I have seen little interest in water and farmland except for the south part of the state wanting more of our northern water.

My son lives in Manteca, CA and I am so sad to see all those over sized houses (now vacant) on some of the most productive **delta farm land**.

Who will feed us? The state and local government should have already been planning to save the fantastic farm land that is our California heritage. Areas with no consistent source of water should be set aside to stay as nature suggested. Wetlands should also be set aside. I love the Yolo bypass. The entire Delta should be saved and used as the Yolo bypass is used.

Housing and towns should not be allowed to steal our precious farmland for housing and strip malls as has happened in Brentwood area south of Antioch. What a waste.

State and local government should be planning with the local communities help to set aside land and help the farmers keep it out of the hands of developers. Set aside land should have incentives to stay as **farmlands** or **wetlands**, or **no water available land**.

Water rationing is going to be more of a problem for our future than high priced gasoline is now. Why not let science help by mapping our whole state in to the following categories, farmland, wetlands, waterless land, and areas which can be developed with permanent water sources.

Last year I flew to Arizona. I was awe struck at the 13 or more dams we flew over. They were not even half full. The area for miles around the dams was dry and barren. There was very little green. Is this what we want for our future?

Planning is already behind. This year the fires have started early and the news suggests water rationing in California may be as bad as Las Vegas. Are the water police in our future or can we show the world the way. California is recognized by the world as ahead of the times. Let's get going to save our farms, and our water.

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