

Board Members,

The future of California Agriculture and California business in general is tied to water. We cannot continue to keep discussing the situation without any action. I have served over 14 years as a Director on my local water district. I have served on the ninth Region Water Quality Control Board. I have been active in the leadership of the County Farm Bureau and in the Water Committee of the California Avocado Commission. I have more than a passing knowledge of water issues in California.

The voters in California approved the Delta by pass in the sixties. Since then we have talked about the issue with those who have opposed it. There will always be some group who will oppose any solution offered to the State's water challenge. It is always easier to oppose an issue than it is to support it.

The time has come to just do it. We have the technical knowledge and the attitude to build what is necessary and still enhance the environment. We also have the right people in place to get it done. A.G. in agriculture, Lester Snow in Water Resources, and the Governor. All the previous effort has been made to get consensus first and then move forward. It doesn't work. Ask Lester about his efforts in CalFed. We have the studies to identify a solution. Put the total solution up, use the authorization from the sixties approval and begin. Let the opponents try to convince the people in our major urban areas that they will have their water cut. Those with the solution need to take the high ground.

The last point is to review the departments regulations and fees to identify which are necessary and contribute to the good. An example is the fee I pay for a state pesticide application license. I have never been able to get any one to tell me what it does for any one other than the State collecting another fee.

Thanks to the Secretary and the Board for undertaking this challenge.

Charley Wolk