

County of Lassen
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

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Lassen County Board of Supervisors

Mr. Mark Bradford, Chairman
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

RE: Upper Pit River Watershed

Dear Mr. Bradford,

Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for a full exemption from the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) for the Upper Pit River watershed. Given, the long-term perennial forage crops and low impact production systems used in the upper watershed, the likelihood of water quality impact due to agriculture is very low. Decades of water quality data clearly prove this case.

It is clear that the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program imposes a disproportionate level of hardship on the growers in Lassen County as well as the rest of the Upper Pit River watershed. The ILRP was never an appropriate tool management or regulatory tool in the upper watershed. Therefore, we applaud the staff report and direction given to staff at the Board's February meeting to proceed with a plan for full exemption to the Upper Pit watershed rather than a partial or piece-meal exemption that could have been considered. A full ILRP exemption will result in more dollars invested locally in on the ground management and infrastructure instead of into state fees. Furthermore the ILRP exemption will provide a strong local incentive to maintain high water quality and proactively avoid watershed regulation in the future.

Sincerely,

Tom Neeley, District #3
Lassen County Board Chairman