

June 22, 2016

To: State Water Resources Control Board

CHAN FAMILY LETTER **AGAINST** THE CALIFORNIA" WATERFIX-3" PROPOSED NEW INTAKES ON THE SACRAMENTO RIVER

The Chan family has lived in Courtland since the early 1900's when our ancestor, Chong Chan, left China, then San Francisco, post-1906 earthquake. He made his way into the Sacramento River Delta, and joined many enterprising Chinese and people of other ethnicities to build a better life, which included planting and nurturing existing pear orchards. We live on such an orchard today. Those trees, OUR trees, many of them over 120 years old, are still producing and feeding people all over the world. We are one of the only Chinese families still farming in the Delta; Chong's great-grandson tending hundreds of acres of pear trees as well as open ground where crops are carefully and thoughtfully rotated.

Many historic Chinese dignitaries, including Dr. Sun Yet Sen (he actually slept here!), have visited Courtland and changed the course of countless lives. To this day, we have tours of Chinese and other world history buffs coming to our ranch for the stories and for a few hours' time visiting a real, working pear ranch. Our family history has been featured in documentaries, newspaper and magazine articles, and most recently, a production company came to film and document our younger generations as faces of the "California Grown" campaign.

Aside from the history, our way of life, the health of the land and the water, employment of dozens in our organization alone, will be destroyed by the proposed "twin tunnels". ***We are absolutely convinced that this "California Waterfix" and its many convoluted and much-amended drafts and variations, make a devastating plan, and must NEVER be permitted.*** Our drinking water, which we get from wells will be diminished and compromised. The intrusion of saltwater will have disastrous effects on the soil and irrigation of existing orchards, vineyards, grain and vegetable crops. Travel on the local roads will become far more dangerous to residents, school buses, farm equipment operators, truck drivers, tourists and wildlife. Permanent loss of farmland is a given. The levees, which are already carefully monitored, will be threatened even further.

There are viable options, some already in place, that can and must be considered and implemented that can provide more water to more people in California. This "fix" is not one of them.

Most sincerely,

The Chan Family  
Courtland, California