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**Subject:** impacts of reduced water supply due to pumping restrictions

From: [todd007@unwiredbb.com](mailto:todd007@unwiredbb.com) [todd007@unwiredbb.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 4:18 PM  
To: Pinero, Janice A  
Subject: impacts of reduced water supply due to pumping restrictions

My name is Todd Allen and I am a third generation grower with farmland located close to Firebaugh, CA.

I own 300

acres and lease 300 acres from my father within the Westlands water district. My father purchased the prime land in

1975 because he saw a great future for his family. He did very well and so did his employees. I farm crops such as cotton, wheat and cantaloupes. In December 2008, I planted 225 acres of wheat and was intending on planting 225 acres of pima cotton and 150 acres of cantaloupes.

With the water I had left over from the year before, I was only able to irrigate 40 acres of wheat out of the 225 acres I had planted. The other 175 acres of wheat I had planted wilted up and died due to the fact that my initial allocation was zero. I have no wells on the farm and have to rely solely on Federal surface water to survive so I had to also fallow the remaining 450 acres. This created hardships for me that I thought I would never have to face, and was shocked that a 2 inch fish (Delta

Smelt) was

standing in the way of my success or failure as a farmer. The first thing I had to do was to lay off my employees which is a hard thing to do. Some of my employees have been working this land for 20 years or more. I then had to talk to the bank whom which I owed a substantial amount of operating money, they worked with me for a while then dropped me later on in the year. My suppliers suffered because they didn't sell me the seed, fertilizer, pesticide, fuel and ranch supplies which amounts to thousands of dollars. I also experienced health problems due to the stress of whether I would be able to be able to take care of my beautiful daughters and wife. Had to start taking medication for high blood pressure. I also had to sell my water allocation that came to me in April (What am I gonna do with 10%?) to help pay for my land payment, home mortgage, and basic needs for my family. I luckily had my crops insured and used the indemnity to pay off my bank at the time in July, but because of the unstable water situation they told me no in November for 2010-11 crop year. I usually have operating funds for October! So I put together a package and visited

5 banks in a week

and actually found a bank that wanted to take care of my operation. I still needed cash flow, so I sold my Cotton Picker, which was a painful decision, especially since I recently did a \$15000 dollar overhaul on it. That got me through November and luckily was funded in December through my new bank. All this for an insignificant non-native 2 inch worthless fish. I tell this story to friends and family and they are thoroughly shocked that a little fish stands in the way of food and fiber for human beings and almost put me out of business.

I really think that water diversions are not solving these fish problems. I'm convinced that its all political and a few people are benefiting from a feel good fish tale while thousands, if not millions are suffering financial or literally starving from this insanity!

Sincerely  
Todd Allen