



Salinas Basin Water Alliance

"Preserve and Protect Salinas Valley Water"

October 9, 2024

To: Erik Ekdahl, Deputy Director State Water Resources Control Board
CC: Ara Azdherian, General Manager Monterey County Water Resources Agency
Re: Shandon-San Juan Water District Amended Applications to Appropriate Water A033189 and A033190

Dear Mr. Ekdahl,

I am writing on behalf of the Salinas Valley Basin Water Alliance, a landowner-farmer entity representing about 90,000 irrigated acres in the Salinas Valley. We have recently learned that the Shandon-San Juan Water District/Shandon-San Juan Groundwater Sustainability Agency is considering an action against the Monterey County Water Resources Agency to condemn rights of access to the Nacimiento Reservoir.

The Alliance is categorically opposed to this action. Our members farm extensively throughout the Salinas Valley and our livelihoods, as well as the livelihoods of our many employees and the stability of the valley cities depend on the groundwater buttressed by the Salinas River. Without groundwater, we cannot farm. In addition to that, the valley basin is in overdraft; the river is, and will continue to be, essential to solving that overdraft, as it is the main mechanism for conveyance to prime percolation areas throughout the valley.

Furthermore, our members have paid millions of dollars over the decades for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Nacimiento Reservoir. The efforts of our businesses and our very lives has financed and made possible the existence of that water project and the groundwater it provides.

The Alliance respectfully requests that the Shandon-San Juan application be denied.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Regards,

Christopher Bunn

President, Salinas Basin Water Alliance

Bengard Ranch
Boutonnet Farms
Christensen & Giannini
Costa Farms
Cooper Land Corp.
D'Arrigo Bros.
Dole Fresh Vegetables
Fontes Farms
General Farm Investment
Higashi Farms
Huntington Farms
Lanini Family
Merrill Farms
Norcal Harvesting
Nunes Vegetables
Ocean Mist Farms
Panziera Ranches
Pedrazzi Farms
Queen Victoria Farms
R.C. Farms
Secondo Farms
Scattini Family LP
Springfield Farms
Sunberry Growers
Sunset Farms
Tanimura & Antle
Taylor Farms
The Tottino Group