

WATER POLICY AND THE FUTURE OF THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY



A recent economic impact study, *The Implications of Agricultural Water for the Central Valley* by Dr. Michael Shires, verifies the vital economic role that water plays in the agriculture-driven Central Valley. The results of the study emphasize that agriculture functions as the main economic driver of the region, providing for one of every six jobs. The study then demonstrates the lack of a viable replacement industry for those agricultural jobs and illustrates how policies that reduce water deliveries consequently damage the local economy.

CONTINUED WATER CUTBACKS WILL DEVASTATE THE LOCAL ECONOMY, IMPACT THE STATE

Jobs and economic activity associated with agriculture would fall by at least

80%



HISPANIC, BLUE COLLAR WORKERS WILL BE DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY THE LOSS OF ENTRY-LEVEL JOBS

80% to 90%



of workers adversely impacted by a reduction in agricultural production will be Hispanic

STATE WILL LOSE REVENUE, SOCIAL WELFARE COSTS WILL INCREASE

\$477 million

Potential loss of tax revenue from people leaving the area, leaving school funding greatly diminished



Alternatively, government assistance programs would strain local and state funding, adding to the **more than 20%** currently living under the poverty level



A FULL WATER ALLOCATION ALLOWS THE LOCAL ECONOMY TO GROW AND THRIVE

A full delivery would provide over

5,000
more jobs

Planted acreage would increase by nearly

30%

REDUCTIONS IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION WOULD MAKE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY THE DETROIT OF CALIFORNIA

Water reductions in San Joaquin Valley will have similar impact to loss of the auto industry in Detroit, doubling the unemployment rate to over 20%, with no replacement industry available to compensate for the loss.



REPLACEMENT JOB SOURCE UNKNOWN, UNLIKELY

\$6.2 billion

The solar investment required to replace lost jobs with new solar energy jobs – highly unlikely



CALIFORNIA'S CENTRAL VALLEY WILL LOSE THOUSANDS OF JOBS



43,000+

Farm jobs could be lost with future water reductions



With no viable alternative job sectors available, **water reductions will force Valley residents to migrate to other states and areas** where opportunities and agricultural jobs exist.

California should instead develop a plan that **HELPS** the people of the San Joaquin Valley by prioritizing food production, providing more and better water storage, and expanding statewide conservation efforts.



Westlands Water District