

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
CALIFORNIA WATER COMMISSION
901 P STREET, P.O. BOX 942836
SACRAMENTO, CA 95836-0001
(916) 653-5791



July 28, 2011

California Roundtable on Water and Food Supply
101 Morris Street, Suite 212
Sebastopol, California 95472

The California Water Commission would like to commend the California Roundtable on Water and Food Supply for its report, "Agricultural Water Stewardship: Recommendations to Optimize Outcomes for Specialty Crop Growers and the Public in California." We appreciate the briefing that was made by Mr. Leo Winternitz at our July 20, 2011 meeting and share the Roundtable's commitment to sound water management principles and greater water use efficiency as a means to ensure safe and reliable supplies of water for all parts of our state, all economic sectors and our environment.

Your report recognizes that farmers, ranchers, and rural communities are particularly susceptible to mounting pressures in water management and provides a number of specific strategies to improve management of this crucial resource and ensure long-term and sustainable water availability. By identifying these key issues and challenges facing water users and policymakers in our state, you have provided a framework to help support the continued development of effective water stewardship programs that support sustainability and economic viability.

Engaging diverse stakeholders in your process has been paramount to producing a balanced approach to the complex issues facing agricultural water use. We encourage the Roundtable to continue its collaborative process and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony Saracino".

Anthony Saracino
Chair, California Water Commission