

**From:** PAUL [REDACTED]  
**To:** [California Water Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Fresno meeting  
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I attended the meeting you hosted this morning in Fresno. Unfortunately, my schedule did not allow me to stay for the entire meeting.

And so, I am hoping that this email will serve as my message to the Board.

First I want to express my appreciation and frankly, my pity for you folks on the board. This seems like a thankless job to me but in keeping with the concept of Noblesse Oblige, I understand that a call to office such as this, is an obligation and not an opportunity. And so I do appreciate everything you're doing.

I also appreciated all the people that spoke at today's meeting. I heard energy, frustration and fear. But I also heard hope, commitment and innovation. I firmly believe that it is from the public sector that some of the best solutions to this issue will arise.

And speaking of innovation that's really the purpose of this letter. I want to talk to you for just a moment about a source of water that you probably have not been introduced to. And, if so, you probably haven't been informed of the sheer magnitude of water this could provide. The Sierra National Forest, which takes up parts of Fresno, Madera and Mariposa counties has been mismanaged for decades.

Their budget gets eaten up with the cost of fighting wildfires and continued litigation from environmental groups. And settlement agreements with the environmentalists shackles the Forest Service.

The result is a forest that is hugely overgrown. Right now we have three times as many trees as a healthy forest should have.

This overgrowth consumes an amazing amount of water and prevents that water from coming down into the water shed. In fact, if the Sierra National Forest had been managed properly, the drought would have had no effect on the valley.

Jim Patterson is putting together a tri-county committee that will wrest control back to a local level, eliminate the incentive for environmental litigation and can actually pay it's own way.

Yes, I guess managing the forest is not the same as building water storage but we're not asking the Water Commission to do anything other than learn. Once you have an awareness of what we can do and the impact this could have on California, I am certain that you will endorse the plan.

Jim has put together a plan that could pay for itself and be a cheap, fast way of generating water to the aquifer. All we ask is that the Water Commission becomes knowledgeable on Jim's plan.

In closing, I am reminded of the story about two old boys talking to each other. There on the front porch with them was an old dog. The dog kept whining and whimpering and whining and whimpering. Finally one fella asked the other what was wrong with his dog. Was it sick or what? The other old boy said "Nah, there's just a nail sticking up through the porch here and he's layin on it. The first old boy said, "Well why doesn't he get up"? The other old boy said, " I guess it just doesn't hurt enough yet".

That's kind of where central California has been for a long time. We're like that old dog, when it comes to water we've been hurting and we've been whimpering and whining but we haven't gotten up yet. I think now, maybe it hurts enough.