

From: Edward Grangetto

Sent: Sunday, July 9, 2023 2:35 PM

To: Simonds,Keene <Keene.Simonds@sdcounty.ca.gov>

Cc: Sellen, Erica A <Erica.Sellen@sdcounty.ca.gov>

Subject: [External] Special Meeting, July 10: Fallbrook PUD & Rainbow MWD Wholesaler Reorganizations

To: Mr. Simonds and the members of the San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission:

My name is Eddie Grangetto and I'm a grower and agriculturalist in Escondido and co-founder of "Escondido Growers for Agricultural Preservation " or EGAP. EGAP has partnered with the city of Escondido to bring recycled agricultural water to the growers in our area and through this innovative conservation collaboration, Escondido is able to avoid a potential one-billion-dollar upgrade to its wastewater system. In addition, it also retains the agricultural business sector in our community, which contributes millions of dollars in revenue, jobs, environmental assets, and a heritage built upon local agriculture. EGAP is committed to ensuring that Escondido enjoys the benefits and future opportunities associated with its agricultural business sector and preserving the rural experience.

I encourage all parties to support the detachment of Rainbow and Fallbrook from The San Diego County Water Authority's over-priced bureaucracy and allow all San Diego County Growers the right to forge their own futures to benefit all stakeholders in San Diego County. All citizens of our county should have the opportunity to engage in business opportunities that are not limited by politics and pure socialist agendas.

According to a May 2023 San Diego Agricultural Planning Program Report, prepared on behalf of LAFCO, local agriculture is becoming significantly smaller and more fragmented with each passing decade. Much of this decline is centered around the cost of water. Given the profound loss of many groves (these are permanent crops, such as avocados and citrus) the many assets these groves provide such as habitat for all types of flora and fauna, a barrier for wildfires, carbon sequestration and an excellent source of erosion control on hillsides will be gone. In addition, where do they think the local Food Bank produce comes from? This is the dilemma The Water Authority has created; raise the price of irrigation water beyond the ability for the consumer to be sustainable and you lose the customer. When the agricultural customer works to reduce his water consumption by being more efficient with his irrigation, the Water Authority punishes the grower because the Authority is not selling enough water. The result of this merry-go-around is the customer must cover the inefficiencies of the Water Authority forever!

Regional Water Equity should not be limited to the local Indian Tribes or only the minority of disenfranchised under privileged that are usually highlighted by the politicians. The growers that have put their entire lives and savings into their agricultural operations should have a chance for Equity also. In one year, a single avocado tree can absorb as much carbon as produced by a car driven 26,000 miles! Two mature avocado trees can provide enough oxygen for a family of four! How does this measure up to Todd Gloria's equity scale?

The people have lost faith in the Water Authority and Todd Gloria. It's time to keep the American Way of Agricultural Original Thinking Alive and not soiled by politicians that have never bothered to visit a local farming operation. As Jacque Cousteau so eloquently stated; We forget that the water cycle and the life cycle are one!

Let's support the detachment of Rainbow and Fallbrook from the tyrannical power grab of the Water Authority. Let's remind those San Diego City Politicians that the next time they are complaining about farmers, to not talk with their mouths full!

Thank You.

Edward Grangetto, Jr., Grower