

**LET OUR WATER GO!**  
**NEW REPORT SHOWS ECONOMIC DAMAGE TO**  
**VENTURA COUNTY FROM LACK OF WATER DIVERSION**

**Would you be surprised to learn that when water is not diverted for groundwater recharge, real economic damage is done to Ventura County?**

United Water Conservation District is limited in the amount of water it can divert from the Santa Clara River at its Freeman Diversion facility due to recent opinions of Federal regulators. This decision negatively impacts a number of sectors within Ventura County, including the County's buoyant agricultural industry which relies on diverted water used for groundwater recharge, especially during prolonged drought conditions.

Through its water diversion at the Freeman Diversion facility, UWCD supports **\$1.08 billion** of annual crop production in Ventura County. If the coastal plain area were a stand-alone county, it would rank in the top five among all California counties in production value of six crops: cilantro, raspberries, strawberries, celery, bell peppers, and cabbage!

**Jobs, Income and Agriculture Sales Impacted:**

The Highland Economics, Inc. Report estimated that **16,800 jobs and \$994 million** in direct agricultural sales value and indirect economic benefits are supported by the basin recharge at the Freeman Diversion facility.

The report was clear that without necessary water diversion and basin recharge at UWCD's Freeman Diversion facility, Ventura County could expect:

- Reduced employment and income for Ventura County residents and businesses
- Lower property tax receipts, as land is de-valued
- Higher residential and commercial water bills and/or higher frequency of Municipal and Industrial water shortages.

**Low Income are Hit Hardest:**

These impacts are likely to disproportionately impact low income and minority populations, i.e., Latino populations in Oxnard and Port Hueneme. Ventura County's minority population, representing 99% of all agriculture jobs, will be disproportionately impacted by a loss of jobs caused by requirements to reduce water diversions at the Freeman Diversion facility.

**Moving Mountains in Washington D.C.:**

Tackling this head-on, UWCD has implemented a comprehensive plan to demonstrate to federal regulators, specifically the National Marine Fishery Services (NMFS), that the diversion of water at the Freeman facility is greatly impacting our region. This year, UWCD board members have traveled to Washington D.C. to meet with elected officials and agency representatives in an effort to present the issues and obtain support for the District. Local and regional stakeholders have been asked to write letters to key NMFS staff and elected officials about the issue, and outreach/education continues with speaking engagements and community relations around the County.

## Help Us Help You:

If you are interested in supporting UWCD on this important issue, please write a letter of support, schedule a presentation by UWCD to your organization or make an inquiry to learn more about the issue by contacting Kris Sofley via email at: [KrisS@unitedwater.org](mailto:KrisS@unitedwater.org).



## FREEMAN DIVERSION WATER REDUCTION IMPACTS ON VENTURA COUNTY

Approximately 377,600 people depend daily on groundwater aquifers recharged through United Water Conservation District's Freeman Diversion Facility; that's almost HALF of Ventura County!



presented by:

