

# eWATERLINE

NOVEMBER 2019

## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



**Jason Phillips**  
Chief Executive Officer

This month's eWaterline will be hitting your inboxes while we are in the midst of our Board of Directors retreat in Pismo Beach.

The team has put together a robust list of critical questions that will help fashion our approach to a number of water supply issues facing Friant and the San Joaquin Valley. I expect the discussions on the facilities we need to build as part of the Blueprint, the financing strategies for the FKC capacity correction, title transfer, and governance will guide the direction and set the priorities for the FWA team through 2020.

**PRIORITY ISSUES:** On Tuesday, November 5, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy convened an in-depth briefing on the details of the new biological opinions. The briefing was hosted by at the Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce and led by Paul Souza, Regional Director of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Ernest Conant, Regional Director of the Bureau of Reclamation, and John Luce, lead counsel from the National Marine Fisheries Service. At this briefing, attendees learned about the process that was undertaken to rewrite the biological opinions and were given an in-depth explanation of the science and data driven results of the months of work and collaboration. It's clear, despite what some in the media are reporting, that the process and the product are a result of good government actions at work. It is also clear that all water users will benefit from the new biological opinions, including the fisheries, municipal water users, and ag users. Several Friant Water Authority Directors and District Managers attended.

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## IN THE NEWS

*Cal Matters*, "Westlands contract shakes the waterscape" by Dan Walters.

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*Ag Alert*, "Groundwater: Deadline nears for completion of local plans" by Christine Souza.

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"SGMA: State Board to Introduce Streamlined Permitting Process for Groundwater Recharge" by Richard S. Deitchman [CLICK TO READ MORE ►](#)

## EASTSIDE HAPPENINGS



State Water Resources Control Board Chairman Joaquin Esquivel, Senator Melissa Hurtado, Kip Lipper - Chief Policy Advisor for Energy and Environment for Senator Pro Tem Atkins and Anthony Williams, Legislative Secretary for Governor Gavin Newsom attend water roundtable in Selma



9th Annual Water Conference hosted by Southern California Edison and PG&E in Tulare. FWA's Johnny Amaral (not pictured) was a panelist



House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy briefs Paul Souza, Regional Director of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Ernest Conant, Regional Director of BOR (not pictured) and John Luce from NMFS (not pictured)

## EVENTS AROUND THE VALLEY

NOV. 18-20

Friant Water Authority Board Retreat

[CLICK FOR AGENDA ►](#)

NOV. 21 @ 6 PM

North Kings GSA Board of Directors Meeting

[CLICK FOR AGENDA ►](#)

DEC. 3-6

ACWA Fall Conference & Exhibition - San Diego

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DEC. 16 @ 2 PM

Eastern Tule GSA - GSP Public Hearing Porterville City Council Chambers

[MORE INFO ►](#)

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### WATER BLUEPRINT FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY:

On November 7-8th, Fresno hosted the California Economic Summit. The Summit, held annually since 2012, was started by California Forward, a bipartisan good government reform effort to improve performance and democracy, and the California Stewardship Network, an alliance promoting economic vitality. One of the sessions was a panel and public discussion on the Blueprint. Blueprint participants Tommy Esqueda and Sarah Woolf led the SJV water session panel discussion. Scott Hamilton, Ryan Jacobsen, Kimberly Brown, Melissa Frank, Dale Melville, Christina Beckstead, Austin Ewell, Cannon Michael, Jeff Payne and I were on hand to lend support and participate in the discussion. The primary objectives of the session were to introduce folks to the Water Blueprint for the SJ Valley, and solicit input on how to improve on the current Blueprint Plan - how to build trust amongst stakeholders, how to define success (outcomes) for each stakeholder group; discuss different processes to build trust and achieve outcomes; and identify partners needed to make it happen. Every audience member received a copy of the Blueprint submittal to the Governor's Office for the Water Resilience Portfolio. The session was very well attended with more than 80 people in the audience.

The 3 post-summit priority actions are 1) participants agree to work together to establish guiding principles, goals, and outcomes for water sustainability in the San Joaquin Valley, 2) Participants will support State Investment and participation in an inclusive stakeholder process in the San Joaquin Valley to establish a shared vision for water resource management, and 3) participants will support furthering state agency alignment and support for comprehensive, collaborate water resources, including appointment of a specific State representative to serve as the liaison between SJV stakeholders and state agencies to resolve regulatory and funding misalignments.

As Thanksgiving approaches in just a couple weeks, I realize how blessed I am to be surrounded by a group of dedicated staff, engaged directors, hard working family farmers in the Friant Division and my supportive family. I couldn't do this job without you!



Watch the video interview with Mike Faria, who discusses his family's farming operation in the Tipton area. The Faria farming operation includes dairy, almonds, row crops, corn, alfalfa and wheat. Mike started working on the farm when he was a kid and continues to this day where he is joined by his dad, brother, cousins and uncle.

While the Faria farming operation is "done growing," Mike is trying to get a grasp on the future in an ever changing and over-regulated environment that is the State of California.

"SGMA alone is going to change the way we farm and we are going to have to adapt.....but we're not going to give up because we have a lot of people counting on us to make the right decisions and we are going to move on and get through all these issues just like we always have."

Mike's message: "We need to stay together with one message.....We need to be unified with one voice."

[Click here](#) to watch Part 1 of the Mike Faria's interview

[Click here](#) to watch Part 2 of the Mike Faria's interview

[Click here](#) to watch Part 3 of the Mike Faria's interview