



# County of Fresno

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SUPERVISOR PHIL LARSON - DISTRICT ONE

April 1, 2009

The Honorable Jim DeMartini  
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors, District 5  
1010 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 6500  
Modesto, CA 95354

Dear Chairman DeMartini:

Please accept this invitation to the California March for Water, April 14-17, 2009 (see attachments). The purpose of this event is to attract national and immediate attention to impacts the statewide drought is having on the livelihood of our agricultural industry, rural communities and families throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

Our overall goal is to ensure that temporary suspension of Endangered Species Act standards be made to allow pumping from the Delta, urge our state legislators to agree on a comprehensive water plan, and secure federal stimulus dollars for shovel-ready infrastructure projects in the valley to create more jobs.

As Supervisor for District One, which encompasses some of the most devastated communities due to the drought, I am asking that we put aside our differences for this important cause. This is our opportunity to stand as a united front to protect the agricultural industry, which serves as the economic engine for our state and, to prevent these hardships and the ripple effects from happening to your communities.

To RSVP or for more information, please contact my office at (559) 488-3541 or email [avega@co.fresno.ca.us](mailto:avega@co.fresno.ca.us).

Sincerely,

Phil Larson  
Supervisor, District One

*Rec'd  
4/21/09  
CAB*

CALIFORNIA  
LATINO WATER  
COALITION

# Your Invitation

To Be Part Of The Important  
California

# March for Water

The California Latino Water Coalition is joining with farm workers, farmers and many other folks, organizations, businesses and agencies from around the state to **March For Water** April 14-17, 2009 through portions of the hard-hit San Joaquin Valley's West Side between Mendota and San Luis Reservoir. Please plan to take part in all or part of the March for Water and big rallies with CLWC Chairman, entertainer-comedian Paul Rodriguez that will begin and end the march. Our goal is to attract the entire nation's attention to our plight. Governor Schwarzenegger, Senator Feinstein and many legislators have been invited to join us. Talk show host Ray Appleton will be our on-site media coordinator and plans to broadcast from the March for Water each day.

*Your help is needed! Much must be done to make this march a big reality, from making signs to helping provide and distribute supplies. Or simply by committing to March for Water, the most vital need and cause California has ever seen!*

For additional information please visit our website [www.gotwater.org](http://www.gotwater.org)

## April 14 -17, 2009

Opening Rally: Mendota, 8 a.m. Tuesday, April 14

Rojas Fierce Park (Derrick and Belmont avenues)

Concluding Rally: San Luis Dam, 11 a.m. Friday, April 17

TO BE PART OF THE MARCH, PLEASE CALL:

Angela Vega — (559) 488-3541

Angie Viveros — (559) 229-9033

Piedad Ayala — (559) 284-0168

Mario Santoyo — (559) 799-0701



## County of Fresno

CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
**SUPERVISOR SUSAN B. ANDERSON – DISTRICT TWO**

March 24, 2009

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor of California  
State Capital Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

VIA FAX (916) 558-3160

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

Thank you for declaring a State of Emergency in the State of California to address the problems created by three consecutive years of drought. While your pursuit of long-term solutions to the challenges of sufficient water supply, water quality and water conservation needs of the State of California are vitally important to the future of our State; we need your urgent action to address the current water crises.

We know that you are both aware and concerned about the devastation created by the drought. However, we see first hand how our residents are suffering from its harsh realities. The economic downturn coupled with the drought make the importance of preserving existing farms, businesses and jobs the major concern for our County. Our unemployment rates are already approaching 40% on the Westside of Fresno County, with a jump of 3 to 4% in the unemployment rate between December 2008 and January 2009. There are food lines that stretch around the block as families wait to receive food. Applications for public assistance and social services have increased significantly. One of our cities already has 53% of its population receiving Medi-Cal. We cannot quietly stand by while as many as 60,000 men and women in California become unemployed due to the drought and lose their ability to provide for their families.

We ask that you use your powers under the declared State of Emergency to seek urgent solutions to mitigate the drought. We urge your consideration of the relaxation of the Endangered Species Act requirements and any other solutions to move water south through the Central Valley Project. There is precedent for such action. In nature there is a tipping point where objects in balance are tilted to a point where they begin to topple and create significant and sometimes irreversible changes. The tipping point in this situation has serious human consequences. We ask that you balance the lives of workers who will lose their jobs due to the drought against the requirements of current environmental regulations. You have a team of experts managing the States' reservoirs, lakes, rivers and canals. It is important that this team find a way to balance the needs of both concerns.

The Fresno County Board of Supervisors stands ready to work with you to find immediate solutions to a problem that cannot wait. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Anderson, Chairman  
Fresno County Board of Supervisors

c: Board of Supervisors  
State Legislative Delegation  
Paul Yoder, State Legislative Advocate



*California  
March  
For  
Water*

Mendota to San Luis Dam  
APRIL 14-17, 2009

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

The California Latino Water Coalition (CLWC) is sponsoring a major West Side March for Water April 14-17. We need your support for Latinos and others who are suffering due to the widespread shortage of water gripping our state and threatening California's economic and social structure. CLWC is a statewide coalition of influential Latino leaders, formed as a non-profit Mutual Benefit Corporation that advocates for all those suffering from California's severe water shortage.

The California March for Water will begin with an 8 a.m. rally Tuesday, April 14, in Mendota's Rojas Pierce Park (*Derrick and Belmont avenues*). It will arrive at San Luis Reservoir, west of Los Banos, at 11 a.m. Friday, April 17, for an even bigger rally to which Governor Schwarzenegger, Senator Feinstein and many state and federal leaders have been invited. Radio talk show host Ray Appleton will be on-site media coordinator and plans daily broadcasts from the March for Water.

This event will place a national spotlight on the drought conditions that are impacting Latinos and other increasingly larger segments of California's population. Marchers will make their way through landmarks that show the enormous impact of drought – fallowed and barren land, stumped orchards, low-level canals and other dried out lakes, streams and water features. The March for Water will walk alongside portions of busy I-5 where thousands of travelers will get the message, reinforced by banner-bearing trucks driving the freeway.

The California March for Water is the most recent and ambitious of CLWC's events. CLWC supports development of environmental, conveyance and sustainability solutions in the Delta, the root of Southern California's water supply problems. With actor-comedian Paul Rodriguez as chairperson, CLWC champions the need for a comprehensive statewide water infrastructure plan, including Delta "fixes," groundwater and surface water storage capabilities, conservation and water resource stewardship, water recycling and desalinization. Since its establishment, the CLWC has generated support and understanding on water issues by promoting public awareness, education and outreach through a wide variety of special events and activities. Over the past two years, the CLWC has met with and briefed Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, California Latino Legislative Caucus Chair Gil Cedillo and many other elected leaders. Along with water forums, the CLWC has organized several water rallies.

As you know, severe water shortages caused by a combination of natural and regulatory drought, coupled with a near total lack of recent willingness to invest in water infrastructure improvements, are crippling the West Side and plaguing most other parts of California. The situation is most grim here and in other regions that depend upon water supplies transported through and pumped from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Water shortages create economic and social damage for all Californians but the CLWC is keenly and sadly aware that the Latino community is already being hit hardest.



On the San Joaquin Valley's West Side, there is little or no water for the farms. Hardship for growers and farm workers is mounting. No crops mean no work, no income and no hope. It is a total economic and social catastrophe. Farm workers, nearly all whom are Latino, are unemployed by the tens of thousands. Other, similarly devastating effects are likely across Southern California as the water supply calamity deepens.

CLWC is actively seeking realistic and effective ways to resolve this crisis, including organizing additional informational legislative workshops in Sacramento and other parts of California to take advantage of growing support for development of a Comprehensive Water Infrastructure Program. CLWC is also planning additional aerial tours of state and federal water projects to emphasize the current dismal conditions. A major Southern California water and energy forum is being formulated. The CLWC also intends to step up its already aggressive lobbying in Sacramento and complement those efforts with the first of a series of trips to Washington, D.C., to take California's water crisis message, and particularly the supply shortages resulting from the Endangered Species Act, directly to members of Congress and the Obama Administration. Our communications efforts are also being beefed up, with an improved website — [www.gotwater.org](http://www.gotwater.org) — and more broadcast public service messages and special printed materials.

Right now, we need your immediate and generous help to pay for the California March for Water. Please support the CLWC's efforts by making a financial contribution. We all know additional water, energy and other resource development are directly linked to creating jobs, stability and opportunity. Together, our voices will be heard.

**YES! I WANT TO SUPPORT THE MARCH!!**

\$2,500 or More (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_  \$2,000: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$1,500: \_\_\_\_\_  \$1,000: \_\_\_\_\_  \$500: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your contributions as soon as possible to the

**California Latino Water Coalition**  
1415 L Street, Suite 400, Sacramento, CA 95814

*For more information, please contact*

**Angela Vega — (559) 488-3541**  
**Piedad Ayala — (559) 284-0168**

**Angie Viveros — (559) 229-9033**  
**Steve Lowe — (559) 269-1994**



# MARCH FOR WATER APRIL 14 -17, 2009

