

Comments before the State Water Resources Control Board
Lauren Sweezey, Scott Valley Agriculture Water Alliance
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Hi, I'm Lauren Sweezey, a farmer in Scott Valley and co-organizer of the Scott Valley Agriculture Water Alliance. I'd like to share with you two examples of the economic hardship experienced by small family-owned farms and ranches in Scott Valley. Both operated under the State Water Board's Local Cooperative Solutions, or LCS.

The first is a cattle operation. To quote the owner, "We sold our heritage cows and lost hay production. The cows sold were at a 50% value and our hay production was 35% loss. We continue with ongoing losses as we operate today."

The second is a family owned hay farm. To quote this farmer, "We lost 25% of our income in 2022. The loss of income was caused by reduced yields by lack of well water. We also fallowed prime ag land in order to meet our LCS requirements. The fallowed land is still a burden of expense with land payments, property taxes and the addition of weed control. Operating at a loss is not sustainable in farming or any other business."

Water Board, this is me, Lauren Sweezey, speaking now. My neighbor, a 96-year-old farmer, told me, "If you really want to know what a person is like, put them in a position of power and see what they do."

You, the Water Board are in a position of power. Please choose your decision so it reflects water for everyone.

Thank you and have a good day, everyone.