

KSBW Report, January 7, 2014

WITH CONTINUING CONCERN OVER CALIFORNIA'S WATER CRISIS.. AND A LOOMING DROUGHT DECLARATION FROM GOVERNOR JERRY BROWN... THE IMPACT WOULD BE WIDESPREAD.. AND ALREADY LOCAL LEADERS AND GROWERS ARE PREPARING FOR WHAT COULD BE THE INEVITABLE... LIVE TEAM COVERAGE RIGHT NOW... WE START WITH ACTION NEWS REPORTER FELIX CORTEZ LIVE IN SALINAS WITH FIRST OF IT'S KIND WATER STUDY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY. # TODAY LOU CALCAGNO WAS APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD .. AND HE MADE IT VERY CLEAR HE WANTS THE LONG TERM WATER SUPPLY STUDIED.. CALCAGNO SAID IF NOTHING IS DONE PARTS OF THE SALINAS VALLEY COULD BECOME BONE DRY ..

6:33 there is no long term supply we're running out and its time we face the reality :38 and only a study is going to show that :42 calling it one of the most important studies the county will ever have to do, Lou Calcagno said county leaders need to take a close look at the future of water in the salinas valley.. And he wants the study done before he leaves office at the end of the year.. 8:09 I want this study done :11 and I want it to actually show where we will be 25 years from now if we just sit here and continually approve development without analyzing where our long term water supply is coming from :24 CALCAGNO said he's not crying wolf but he says if we don't come up with a long term solution.. Fields won't be farmed.. And wells will dry up.. 3:16 we're going to be in serious problems :19 and we foresee that the community of Castroville will not be able to have a fresh water supply 25 years from now not if things stay as they are neither will moss landing and they'll be areas of north county that won't :35 CALCAGNO's request comes as the state is experiencing one of the driest years in history.. Local reservoirs are at some of their lowest levels .. And saltwater intrusion is a growing problem.. Supervisor Dave Potter says just as the Monterey Peninsula has had to confront its water problem.. So does the Salinas Valley.. Potter 11:38 now's the time for action we can cuss and discuss as much as we want but I'm a little more solution oriented I'd like to see the community stop arguing over water and sit down at the table and what can we do as a county to solve regional problems :51

HERE'S WHAT Calcagno IS HOPING FOR NEXT.. THAT THE PROPOSED STUDY WILL COME BACK TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN TWO WEEKS.. AND AGAIN Calcagno HOPING THE WATER STUDY WILL BE COMPLETED IN THE FALL .. JUST BEFORE HE LEAVES OFFICE..####

Transcript Prepared by Stamp | Erickson, obvious typos corrected and otherwise verbatim.

WHILE THE COUNTY IS LOOKING FOR A LONGTERM SOLUTION FOR OUR WATER SUPPLY, THE NEED IS MUCH MORE IMMEDIATE FOR THE AG INDUSTRY AS THE STATE HEADS INTO A THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR OF DROUGHT. ACTION NEWS REPORTER MAY CHOW CONTINUES OUR LIVE TEAM COVERAGE.### DAN...ERIN...THE IMPACT OF THE DROUGHT A CONCERN FOR GROWERS, AND ESPECIALLY TROUBLING FOR RANCHERS, WHO SAY THE PARCHED LANDSCAPE IS HURTING THEIR CATTLE BUSINESS... USUALLY AT THIS TIME OF YEAR, THE HILLS ALONG HIGHWAY 68 ARE COVERED IN GREEN PASTURES, GIVING CATTLE A LUSH FIELD ON WHICH TO GRAZE. BUT THIS YEAR, AS THE STATE ENTERS A THIRD DRY YEAR IN A ROW, RANCHERS ARE RELYING MORE HEAVILY ON FEED AND HAY. BOB 14:16-14:26:

"probably the biggest impact would be on our cattle producers because they depend on grass to feed the cow, and look at the hills, all brown now, now grass growing."

THE DROUGHT IS DRYING UP NOT ONLY LAND, BUT ALSO CASH RESERVES. AS DEMAND GROWS, RANCHERS ARE PAYING MORE FOR FEED... ALFALFA NOW COSTS ABOUT 260-DOLLARS A TON, MORE THAN DOUBLE THE USUAL AMOUNT OF 120- DOLLARS. BUT ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER BOB ROACH SAYS BUYING FEED IS JUST A TEMPORARY FIX. BOB 14:39-14:52:

"the rainy season isn't over yet, we have had miracle marches before , we could see significant rain allow forage grow for the cattle, if that doesn't happen, going to have to reduce the herds."

CATTLE IS A 50- MILLION-DOLLAR A YEAR OPERATION IN MONTEREY COUNTY, AND THE AG COMMISSIONERS OFFICE SAYS IT COULD SEE SIGNIFICANT LOSSES IF THERE'S NO RAIN. MEANTIME, THE SITUATION ISN'T SO DIRE FOR GROWERS, WHO ARE IN THE OFF-SEASON NOW. UNLIKE FARMERS IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY AND OTHER PARTS OF THE STATE THAT DEPEND ON AN IRRIGATION DISTRICT, GROWERS USE UNDERGROUND WATER RESERVES. BOB 16:14-16:25:

"we are relying on groundwater, so we can continue pumping at some point, not what we want to see, depleting ground water without replenishing it."

ROACH SAYS THE AG INDUSTRY HAS BECOME AWARE OF WATER

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CONSERVATION, AND IS MORE EFFICIENT IN ITS USE OF WATER, LIKE USING MORE DRIP IRRIGATION. ROACH 18:57-19:04:

"they want to be more efficient, the dry spell pushes that even more." lay broil starting on second SOT ROACH 19:54-19:55 "not impacting anyone's operation yet." 20:10-20:11: "at this point, we're just hoping for rain."

THE AQUIFERS ARE REPLENISHED BY RAINFALL AND WATER FROM LAKES NACIMIENTO AND SAN ANTONIO ... BUT THE WATER RESOURCES AGENCY SAYS THE SALINAS VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN HAS EXPERIENCED OVERDRAFT OVER THE YEARS, WHICH MEANS MORE WATER IS PUMPED OUT THAN REPLENISHED ON AN AVERAGE YEARLY BASIS ...DAN...ERIN?###

Read more:

<http://www.ksbw.com/news/central-california/salinas/Supervisor-Salinas-Valley-farms-will-dry-up-without-new-water-supply/-/5738906/23821744/-/xvbvsbz/-/index.html#ixzz2prRDNT3C>

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