



**Salinas River
Channel Coalition**



**Monterey County
Cattlemen's Association**

**Monterey County
Cattlemen**

November X, 2015

In September of 2014, Governor Brown signed a series of three bills, collectively referred to as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) that provide for local control and sustainable management of groundwater basins. The first task, which must be completed and approved by July 1, 2017, is to form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). The GSA will then be charged with developing a groundwater sustainability plan to balance inflows and outflows of groundwater from our Salinas Basin. Obviously the GSA, and the groundwater sustainability plan will have a significant impact on farming in the Salinas Valley.

Since April, a Consortium consisting of the Monterey County Farm Bureau, Grower-Shipper Association, Salinas Valley Water Coalition, Monterey County Administration, Monterey County Water Resources Agency and the City of Salinas have been meeting with the goal to hire a facilitator to engage stakeholders, and help develop the structure for a GSA compliant with the SGMA. Following a Request for Statement of Qualifications and a formal interview process, the Consortium has selected the Consensus Building Institute as the facilitator for this process. The principal at CBI has significant experience bringing together diverse interests to develop groundwater sustainability plans.

The Agricultural interests that are part of the Consortium believe it is important for the future of Agriculture in the Salinas Valley to contribute equally with the City, County, and Water Resources Agency to pay for the facilitator. We believe that gives us a greater voice in the formation of the GSA, and the future of farming in our valley.

We (the agricultural interests that are signatories to this letter) are seeking to raise a minimum of \$50,000, to be used to pay one-fourth of the facilitator cost. We have attached a donation/pledge form, and our suggested contribution is \$0.50 per acre farmed or processed. Checks should be made payable to SGMA Ag Fund and sent to P.O. Box 828, Salinas, CA 93902-0828. Since funds may be available from the State to assist in the facilitation process, any amount collected above our contribution may be returned to you or used to retain consultants to Agriculture, to assure we have an adequate voice in the GSA.

Since you may be a member of more than one of the organizations below, you could receive more than request. Rest assured, we are working together, and welcome and thank you for contribution to this effort under any of the organizations to which you belong.

Thank you for considering a donation to this most important process for Monterey County Agriculture!