On August 3, the State Water Resources Control Board could completely eliminate surface water supplies for farms in much of the state.

As many as 10,000 water rights holders from north of Lake Shasta to Fresno would be prohibited from diverting any surface water for the purpose of farming. (See hashed area)

If the Board feels compelled to take this drastic action, they must enforce with equal vigor, rules prohibiting unlawful water diversions that harm legal water users and the environment.

Fewer crops have been planted due to the drought and additional cuts by the Water Board could eliminate harvesting crops already in the ground.

After two short years of full reservoirs, we shouldn’t be in this position. Substantial state and federal investments in our water supply infrastructure is critical to keep this from happening again.