OVER A CENTURY OF FARMING
WITH THE BURROWING OWL

AL KALIN - FARMER
473,000 ACRES CROP LAND
2,600,000 ACRE FEET WATER
1,500 MILES OF IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT CANALS
1,400 MILES OF IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT DRAINAGE CANALS
OVER 3,000 MILES OF PRIVATE DITCHES
FROM ALOE VERA TO ZUCCHINI

WE GROW

170 DIFFERENT CROPS
365 DAYS OUT OF THE YEAR
132,000 ACRES OF ALFALFA
68,000 ACRES OF GRASS
They live in IID drain ditch banks
They live in burrows they dig next to farmers concrete lined irrigation ditches.
They live in burrows next to IID canals
They don’t live in the farm fields
They live around the perimeters of the fields and along the ditches.
Specific crops are not that important to their continued success – crops and fields are constantly changing.
Pocket Gopher

Round-tailed Ground Squirrel
Pocket Gopher holes next to a concrete lined ditch
Farmers #1 PROBLEM

Burrows on the wrong side of an irrigation ditch create hazards for irrigators

• Employee injuries
• Compensation claims
• Harm to the owl
With help from
Dr. Rosenberg
Audubon’s Land Owner Stewardship Program
“We’re from the Government. We’re here to help you……..”
FARMER’S BIGGEST FEAR

1. BURROWING OWL BEING LISTED AS AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

- Restriction on the crops that can be grown
- Restrictions on the use of pesticides
- Restrictions for harvesting
- Is Safe Harbors really that safe?
- No consideration for social or economic hardship
- Gross distortion of science is possible
2. FARMING ADJACENT TO PROPERTY ENROLLED IN BURROWING OWL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

• Will original owner of easement sell off to the government to operate? (Flip it for a profit)
• Can the property be managed as burrowing owl habitat? Most productive ground already being farmed. Farming Restrictions prevent certain crops from being grown
• Will the property harbor weeds and insects that will spread to neighboring farm fields?
3. SOLAR INSTALLATIONS

• Thousands of acres that once fed the nation are being taken out of production for installation of solar farms.

• No water will be applied to this ground meaning no insects will be produced = no food for burrowing owls

• Because of the size of the project what will that do to burrowing owl populations in these areas?

• Can the loss of this habitat be properly mitigated?

• Will this trigger a push to list the burrowing owl as endangered?
We’ve farmed next to the burrowing owl for over 100 years with no problems.

If farmers are left alone we can farm peacefully next to the burrowing owl for another 100 years.