Tim Moore’s key points to dairy audience

- Dairy owners/operators have every right to be concerned, pessimistic and asking themselves whether the state really wants a dairy industry, given legislative action on the minimum wage, SGMA, and methane reduction, coupled with recent enforcement action by the SWRCB. Federal RCRA lawsuits in Yakima and (threatened) in Corcoran also are a wakeup call.
- It really isn’t like this in other states – California seems to be the perfect storm of having nitrate in groundwater problems and economically disadvantaged communities.
- Not here to candy coat it, but to tell it to you like it is and identify your real-world options, so you can make a business decision, which is what I would want if I owned a dairy.
- For example, if you wait for enforcement actions to take place, it could actually cloud the title to your land and attach liability to the land if cleanup and abatement orders are issued. That’s information I would want to know if I were in your place and I would want to know now, not five years from now.
- So what are your options?
  - Quit farming and sell your land.
  - Move to another state.
  - Line all lagoons.
  - Hunker down and wait for them to come get you, or
  - Find a way to get water to some of these people now and avoid enforcement action.
- Regulatory change is needed to make the last option available – right now, even if the state board wanted to help you, they could not do so until the changes (in the Basin Plan) proposed by CV SALTS are adopted.