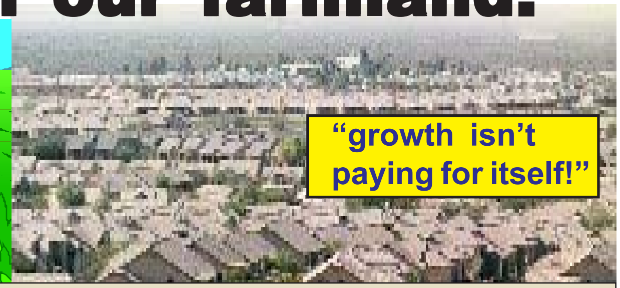
Stop building on our farmland.

California produces 24% of the nations table food. The Calif Central Valley is huge: 450 miles long and 60 miles wide. **A bigger story is that a tiny sliver of land only 5 miles wide and 60 miles long produces 10% of California's Ag income.**



"land that produced something real, cost almost nothing to serve and brought in outside dollars is suddenly replaced with a suburb whose houses need policing, new fire stations, children need schooling, parks, playgrounds and on and on."

The Cripple Creek Gold strike of 1890, equivalent in size to Salinas Valley's vegetable area, mined almost one billion dollars of ***gold*** in 70 years. And it's all gone!

Shucks, we mined the Salinas Valley for $2.9 billion in vegetables just last year AND, we are going to do it again next year and the year after that, IF we can save it from development.

If this little sliver of land were a state, it would be the 7th wealthest state in the nation.

cut farm income and increased costs.

That's not smart!

Doing one is bad enough, but both!

and built only two affordable houses

"in last 14 years 4,016 acres paved over, losing $50 million per year"

"increased development just brings more municipal debt"

"cities try to make up the gap by taxing residents"

Growth. The promise: annex land for a subdivision and—eureka, increased property and retail sales taxes! **Salinas plunged ahead without doing a "*Cost Benefit Analysis*" or noting the numerous reports in the media explaining the problems. Now a few years later it's "Debt" — not "eureka".**

—Debt is up 55 million dollars in just five years: 1994 to 1999.
—$180 million of needed capital improvements deferred. 55 + 180 = $\boxed{235}$
—Officials are saying; "we have no money"
—We must increase taxes for infrastructure in North Salinas: library, fire and police substations, swimming pool enlargement and on and on.
(But they don't mention that development fees should pay for all new impacts on a city caused by that development.) **What happened to the promised pot of gold at the end of the "growth" rainbow?** Answer:

$17,377 is the estimated infrastructure cost for each new resident of Salinas *"The Cost of Population Growth to Local Communities" by CCN – Carrying Capacity Network"* Check it on the web: www.cap-s.org/cnnbeyond.html

Salinas averages 3.63 persons per household, so that's at least $63,078 per house. Salinas charges only $20,000 per house, which leaves a deficit of $43,078 per house. 6000 new houses in Salinas times $43,078 equals $\boxed{258}$ million dollar deficit.

Now they want to tax us to make up this growth-induced deficit!

Robert Kennedy