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## **HECA WATER USE MAY SINK S.J. VALLEY (MORE)**

Now we learn the San Joaquin Valley is sinking. The Bakersfield Californian published Nov 21, 2013 the US Geological Survey reporting that land is sinking more rapidly than normal due to increased ground water pumping in the San Joaquin Valley. [<http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=3731#.UpUp49qA3q4>] Researchers found valley land subsidence in one area of nearly one-foot per year. The report says subsidence has reduced capacity of the California Aqueduct, which means that less water can be delivered to farms and cities than in the past.

Hydrogen Energy CA (HECA) plans to pump 5000 gallons/minute for 20 years for their coal fired chemical/power plant in Buttonwillow. We've learned the power HECA makes from coal will not be for the public. HECA will use most of that power themselves to make chemicals.

Kern County is in a water shortage. Farmers already are pumping more water from the ground than in the past because Lake Isabella has less water to supply them. And the ground water is in overdraft. So I wonder how much HECA's pumping will further lower water levels on neighboring farmer's wells. And now we have to wonder about sinking. I wonder how HECA's pumping will exacerbate the subsidence issue. Subsidence is especially problematic in light of the fact that HECA's wells will be pumping this water very close to the aqueduct. How much more risk should our area be subject to from one polluting plant giving the public very little benefit in return?