

Press Release
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Contact: Juan Carlos Oseguera
juancarlos@filmunition.net or 209-675-2988

'The Fight for Water: A Farm Worker Struggle' documentary
to screen in Modesto Nov. 29

Modesto, Nov. 5, 2012 -- A documentary about the historic 2009 march of farmers and farm workers across the heart of the California Central Valley to demand that irrigation water restrictions be overturned and their water supply be turned back on is coming to Modesto's State Theater Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012. "*The Fight for Water: A Farm Worker Struggle*" highlights the human impact an environmental decision had on the farming community when its water supply was shut off, and the march farmers and farm workers staged in order to fight for their water.

The Modesto screening is being sponsored by the following organizations: The California Farm Water Coalition; the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau Federation; The California Poultry Federation and Mapes Ranch. Admission is \$6 at the State Theater located at 1307 J Street, Modesto, The film begins at 7 p.m. and will be followed by a panel discussion featuring several of the film's participants.

Central Valley filmmaker Juan Carlos Oseguera, 38, who was raised in the California Central Valley by parents who were migrant farmworkers, set out to film this event and document the farm workers' struggle. The San Francisco State University film graduate learned that many Latino agricultural laborers were without jobs while fields lay fallow because of drought, caused in large part by federal regulations to protect a threatened fish in the Stockton-San Joaquin Delta. Those workers' plight and their four-day, 50-mile protest march from the city of Mendota to the San Luis Reservoir are the subjects of Oseguera's first full-length film, "*The Fight for Water: A Farm Worker Struggle*."

The documentary describes how measures designed to protect the Delta smelt contributed to fields going dry throughout portions of the West Side three years ago. During 2009, when farmers only received just a tiny part of their water allocations, refuges that protect the threatened fish received all of the water designated for them.

Comedian and actor Paul Rodriguez makes an appearance in the film as chairman of the California Latino Water Coalition, which helped organize the march. The film also includes footage of then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger when he met with the group of laborers at the San Luis Reservoir west of Santa Nella.

Oseguera said he hopes the film provides a voice to farm laborers, as news reports on California's water issues tend to report the voices of farmers and environmentalists, not those who harvest the crops. "My parents were migrant farmworkers and many of my relatives are still working in the fields," he said. "This is lending a voice to that."

The film became the "Official Selection" at the Film Fest Twain Harte and at the Bakersfield Independent Film Festival; with "Special Presentation" screenings at the Viña de Oro International Film Festival and the ITSA Film Festival™.

About the film maker: Juan Carlos Oseguera is a Modesto Junior College graduate who has won awards and recognitions in writing, producing and directing. As a student filmmaker, he won two "Student Producer" Awards and a "Student Screenplay" Award for a student film that was also nominated "Best Student Film". He holds a film degree in Cinema Studies from San Francisco State University and has been a published film critic. Upon graduating from San Francisco State, he attended CSU Summer Arts, a Festival of the Arts Program, sponsored by the California State University at Fresno State, where he worked alongside industry professionals in Television, Theater and Digital Filmmaking. In 2005, he edited a television documentary called "Artist Take", and, thereafter, freelanced in video editing projects under his post-production editing studio Filmunition. In 2009, he started work on his first feature length documentary, "The Fight for Water: A Farm Worker Struggle" which he wrote, produced, edited and directed.

About the film: More information on the film is available at:

www.thefightforwaterfilm.com

www.facebook.com/thefightforwaterfilm

Editor's Note: Juan Carlos can be reached at juancarlos@filmunition.net or 209-675-2988

Press Release by Mark Looker

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