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Submission:

My husband and I have been rate payers in the valley for more than forty years. I have watched as farm returns have remained constant for the last twenty of them. How ever there never seems to be any constant for the price of inputs and associated costs of production and living. I find it hard to believe that in an ever changing world we have a government system that is so set and unwilling to change . The inequity in the current rate calculation and the proposed increases for the minority of assessments that already pay high rates is a real kick in the guts. I understand how cash strapped the councils are , and agree that money has to be obtained to fund improvements and maintain roads and bridges. But why only obtain it from a such small few. Would it not make sense to collect a fairer tax from everyone. I ask you, as our government to get the ball rolling and change this dated system to a fairer one.