

# 'Not another planet'

Sunday, Mar. 29, 2009

It's obvious that west-side communities (Mendota, Firebaugh, San Joaquin) are feeling the effects of water cutbacks, bank failures, the mortgage mess, etc. We are ground zero when it comes to the country as a whole.

What is being felt throughout the U.S. now has been the norm out on the west side for years. Poor wages, farm automation and less than adequate high-level representation are some of the reasons why.

Two recent front-page articles would have readers believe that this is an accurate depiction of everyday life in our communities. The rest of the story should include the fact that there are people who have year-round jobs, and young students who are in college, and that the majority of inhabitants are actually U.S. citizens.

I write this not to be facetious or offensive, but rather to share with all readers that the west side of Fresno County is not another planet. See you soon, neighbor.

Joseph R. Riofrio

City council member

Mendota