

Los Banos Public Meeting 5/6/96

Cliff Koster - Doesn't think that ag land retirement is rational - What was rational basis for it?

Ed Petry: Land retire on volunteer basis - hard to believe that you will get that many people to volunteer to retire land - City of Mendota is poverty row due to poor water quality. - States that the SJ Drain is not working - Doesn't think its fair to 93640 - additional storage will help a lot of factors - problems in 1960, 1986, Don't have enough capacity to maintain water quality and protect from flooding and the Mendota Pool congestion. Why can't we clean up the Mendota Pool?

Fred Larson - Fresno Farm Bureau - The loss of 800,000 acres would cause 30,000 person would be directly impacted -- third world - school districts would be impacted. Negative impact to protect the environment - we want an economic element - ag is ignored and should be considered - we are the endangered species. World is faced with a total grain supply that will last 40 days - we need more food, not less land.

Al Bingle - will be submitting written comments to the alternatives to the Bay-Delta Program -- valuable land resources - high yield and diverse crops - Using University of Calif factor - farmers produce ___ \$\$ towards other economic factors and pay a lot of sales taxes, school taxes etc., Farmers have a contract with the Feds and the SWP - Feds have failed in providing contractual amts. - District shortages - Fixing enviro problems on the back of the farmers - touted as demand management - thinks = farm land reduction will not solve the problems. Wants to include an extensive Economic study in the EIR/EIS reports - effect already low employment. And Calif's balance of trade. (Third party impacts) SJ face water shortages even in good water years. Even 350k acres are taken . If there is any water saved from land retirement -w ants the water to stay in the district due to already low water amts. (Westlands Water District) - pipe line and metered water system - highest efficiency systems. Produce higher yields and use less water - use 19% less water and produce 45% more cotton in the valley and similar yields with tomatoes. Consider the full range of possibilities - must equally supply all the stakeholders- by land retirement and environmental things are in all alternatives - makes it seem like it is a done deal.

- Early slides - no preferred alternatives - you've broken the rules and makes it had for us to believe that you are definitely doing ag land retirements - why id demand management only on ag? What about urban?

Levied as those who have destroyed the salmon fishing - and the last 2 years have been the best - Agri has been stated as totally responsibility for the degradation of the salmon fishing.

DeeDee - congressman - 1. Feels that this meeting is long over-due and get the sense that many decisions have already been made. - people here in the Los Banos and feel that they should have been consulted at the beginning of the process - 2. Felt that the Alt A came out in print and don't feel the good faith is here that include land ag retirement - don't think that the choices are

reasonable and prudent and that it will be easier to achieve agreement 3, Water Quality - follow through on 4 goals - 1. CALLED make priority to ascertain the full impacts of all the different acts and laws - historically and know the full impacts. 2. Any alternative should include a goal of water restoration to the area. 3. If president has signed - absolutely critical to have the Economic Impact Report. 4. Return to the area so that you can talk with the people that area most effected.

Firebaugh area - Large Family Farm - 800 people that work for his family - read list of impacts to the people, community and family and workers. We(CALLED) have an awesome responsibility- Ag water contracts are the life blood of the area and healthy environment requires strong economy and the impacts of the area - sales food to all over U.S. and 25 foreign countries. Weak economy produce a degraded environment. Natural resources can't require loss of ag land . Need balance - 1. Good science. - feels strongly that there is a lack of science. 2. Sensitivity to the impacts and needs of the areas. 3. Respect to the families that have built there lives on the farming industry and accomplishments made so far. (Employees bought homes and have bettered themselves and have made a contribution to the economy and the communities.

Ed Petry - in response to the Westland Water Dist. - water running through county property and told it is going through natural channel - doesn't believe it . - dumps into the Mendota Pool. Impact water quality that is coming out of the Mendota Pool - interfering with the ground water of Mendota - and want it from the Eastside - give us an alternative to the problems of the Mendota area and need more than secondary concerns -

Yield #'s - ?? Not available .as we are just getting into Phase II.

How do we get from 10 to 3 without yield analysis?

On Demand side - what kind of numbers are you using -? - seems like you need to make a shot at hitting the goal of the states demand for water and maybe fall short of the goal, but make an attempt of

Alt C - two points - 1. How do you profess to solve todays' problem and looks like you are leaning 2. How do you ground water bank on Westside when the aquifer is 500 ft below the surface.

How does this enhance water for ag areas/ - Do you take it from urban areas - don't see it.

How are you going to transport this water? Through the 2 existing canals now ? What months are those - how many af would be allocated ? Does a reservoir go somewhere down here. - What are we talking about time implementation?

Solution Principles - Read article out of Calif Water Journal about invader species. As quoted by Fish & Wildlife Service. How - when moving large amts of water are you going to reduce conflict - how durable is this alternative - why don't we just pipe on down to this area -why go through the Delta?

700 CFS is not going to solve our problems

Looking for some insulation from the Endangered Species Act - durable solution that can't change the numbers when another endangered species comes along.

How is your fish screen at the isolated facility any better than the one at the pump.

Does this all hinge on SB 900 passing ? Where else will get the money? Are you advertising to let the farmers know what this is?

Alt E - When you are talking about producing af for environmental - what basis are you using for these quantities? Does that translate into yield - exportable yield - re 400,000 af from decreased evapotranspiration issue.

Doesn't think anyone is missing the Delta shrimp - its a dinosaur that is gone - forget it.
How much are these fisherman contributing to his "farming?" - All they do is pull fish out of the bay and buy bigger boats.

Why did you see the need to increase amts of water to those farm areas and not south of the Delta?

Can you go through these alternatives and rate them as they may produce more supply for us? Rate them off the top of your head, realize its a quick rating. Would help in letting us know which alts will help us out more than others.

Chain of Lakes - Doesn't that alt leave you very vulnerable? - Seismic etc.

How much money is spent in the Delta for levee maintenance since the 20's - Is it for farmers? Ag land

Habitat Restoration - what and how and at what level do you want to have this enviro and habitat restoration.? Its costing us farmers a lot of money.

Preserving water - asking ag to do it and asking urban to do it - but not asking environment for any reductions - says we are wasting too much water on saving the enviro

Ask enviros to stop using the "We think its going to happen"

Forgotten the intent of the original project - SL Drain , and the aqueduct - the original intentions that the U.S. was to have enough food by providing us with us enough water - the best solution will be to provide the nation with enough water to provide food for all of us - forget the side issue - build a project that will feed the nation - forget the ducks, the fish - think about our grandchildren and will there be

Problem with presentation - reduce the water supply there is a mismatch as we were trying to

solve the problems with the drought and endangered species and you took water away - are we trying to have our water supply enhanced or just trying to get back to where we were.

Wants a count of the smolt/please send the numbers for the last 7 years. Fish Screen - the fish eggs and larvae how are we looking at this problem. FWS are charged with the responsibility of the problem - is this going to rear up as an unsolvable problem.? If you have an iso. Fac and will there be unrestricted flows from the Delta? Why can't you screen the fish at the pumps? You're telling me that the problem is not with the fish screens - isn't it a matter of management than transportation or piling up in Clifton Court Forebay.

80% of the Salmon harvest have to be 26" or larger - are you saying that the Salmon were full size of this size? The two year old smolt are catch able 26" fish that are returning in the spring. The Gov had restrict the commercial by 50% and have rescinded that and lengthened the season and have shortened the sport fishing season by 1 month. Don't they need to be in the mix? Have they ever counted the fish and shut down the harvest season when they reached the quotas?

Before they built Shasta Dam did they know how many Winter run Salmon - were there any? Is it historically documented. What was the take?

Go on record for opposing Alt A - and against the land retirement issue. - Is anyone actually looking at these responses - you are charting our comments - but are you doing anything with them.?

Concern throughout the valley with how this process started that benefits are going to be shared by all the different elements - going throughout the funnel - ag is suffering at the benefit to two others - none of these alts show anything re: drainage. - Where is it; the environmental disaster that will be happening - feel that the SJ valley is being sacrificed for the enviro benefit to the SF Bay area -- don't see compromise in fishing happening.

Curious about - urban conservation - what you propose ; are they going to have strict #s of water - are we going to keep up with these do-good volunteer programs. Will incentives help to cause farmers to go over to 'drip' systems - Specifically what are you recommending for the conservation? Not a curb on the Delta . -