

JACKSON VALLEY  
IRRIGATION DISTRICT

MAY 27 1998



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May 27, 1998

California Farm Water Coalition:

Ladies & Gentlemen:

My name is Henry Willy, Manager of a small Irrigation District in southwest Amador County.

"Conservation of water and flood control cannot be separated. The runoff occurring in flood years is the water which must be stored and held over, that is, conserved for dry years... any solutions to a local flood problem which merely accelerates the flow of flood waters to another area or to the ocean is wasteful and intolerable."  
..."We will be wise to develop all our available reservoir capacity to obtain the maximum year to year storage of water (which is drought protection). There is no alternative means by which we can protect ourselves from drought."

The December 1861-January 1862 flood produced a volume of water temporarily stored in transit on the floor of the great Central Valley amounting to 6 times the proposed and existing volume of reservoir space allotted (during the 1960's). This would mean a level of water approximately 10.5 feet above mean sea level and four feet above the presently considered maximum flood level for design. The storm produced flood waters of 23 feet in the town of Sacramento and 14.4 feet down Main Street here in Stockton. More devastating floods occurred in 1905, 1938, 1950, 1955 and most of you can remember the drought and flood cycle of more recent years. This brief look at the past is contained in a comprehensive public works plan which included a step by step water plan for California. This plan and support data was prepared by Charles M. Weber, the grandson of Captain Weber, founder of Stockton. This plan was presented to the State Legislature and adopted January 28, 1960.

This was considered a drastic change and California politics could not face the flood and drought facts of real life.

At Page 7 in the April 1996 California Water Journal it is stated: "According to a new report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Francisco Bay/Delta can now be recognized as the most invaded aquatic ecosystem in North America. Ship's ballast water

and other means are bringing new non-native shrimp, clams, crab, fish and whatever to the Delta on the average of one every 12 weeks." The report goes on... "exotic and foreign species including striped bass have been flooding the Bay/Delta ecosystem since the Gold Rush.

And again, one year later, after the floods of 1997, at page 4, "Biologists at the U.S. Geological Survey said they were astonished at how quickly and far the fresh water spread, noting salinity in the Bay dropped to its lowest level in 30 years (no tests before that time)." The article went on, "The drastic changes are expected to kill vast amounts of shrimp, worms, mussels and clams that live in the Bay. Some may not recover for several years. The phenomena also could affect the direction of plans being developed by Cal/Fed for purposes of improving the Bay/Delta ecosystem..."

So, more fresh water flowing into the Bay/Delta causes damage to the ecosystem. More fresh water did not apparently flush out or reduce any non-native species and no evidence was found that more native fish were propagated.

Now we are again faced with a solution to the California water problem:

The Cal/Fed Plan is bulky, elaborate, confusing and expensive, but reduced to its bottom lines it will do four things:

- 1.) Create a new severe water rationing plan in the name of water conservation. (Page 2-13)
- 2.) Create a new policing force to insure rationing goals are reached. (Page 2-34)
- 3.) Give us the Peripheral Canal supplied with the conserved water and water stolen from State Water Rights.
- 4.) Accomplish some restoration of the watershed because most of our water originates on Federal Land.

If any water storage is seriously considered, it will be limited to underground storage recharge. Anything resembling a reservoir, such as Auburn Dam, Nashville or the many other suitable project sites are fraught with too many imagined and created environmental problems to be seriously pursued.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this presentation.



Henry Willy  
Jackson Valley Irrigation District  
Secretary/Manager