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IN RE THE MEETING OF THE)
BAY-DELTA ADVISORY COUNCIL)
_____)

ORIGINAL

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
San Bernardino City Council Chambers
300 North "D" Street
San Bernardino California 92418

Thursday, August 19, 1999, 7:00 p.m.

REPORTED BY: JOANNE P. CUNNINGHAM,
CSR NO. 2734, RPR-RDR, CRR

PORTALE & ASSOCIATES DEPOSITION REPORTERS
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Stpockton, California 95202
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COUNCIL MEMBERS:

JOE BODOVITZ, Chairman

WALTER YEP, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

JIM LECKY, National Marine Fisheries

Service

RICK BREITENBACH, CalFed Bay-Delta Project

---o0o---

1 (All parties present, the following proceedings were
2 had at 7:00 p.m.):

3
4 THE HEARING OFFICER: Because we did the public
5 notice of the hearing starting at 7:00, I think we'll
6 proceed. And then as you heard Rick say, staff
7 members will be here afterward to continue discussing
8 with you.

9 My name is Joe Bodovitz, and I will be
10 conducting the hearing tonight. I'd like to welcome
11 all of you.

12 I work with the CalFed Bay-Delta Program,
13 but I'm not part of it. Rather, I am head of a
14 small, nonprofit organization called the California
15 Environment Trust. It works to help people find as
16 much agreement as possible on complex and difficult
17 issues.

18 My own background is that I was the first
19 executive director of the State Coastal Commission
20 some years ago, and later executive director of the
21 state Public Utilities Commission, which, as some of
22 you at least know, among other things, regulates all
23 the investor-owned private water companies in the
24 state. So I have some background on the issues with
25 which we'll be dealing.

3

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1 This is the second of 15 public hearings
2 that the CalFed program has provided for as part of
3 the review of its draft environmental documents.

4 And I'll explain the ground rules for our
5 hearing tonight in just a second, but I trust all of
6 you know that if you wish to speak, it's necessary to
7 fill out one of these yellow cards. They are on the
8 table at the top of the stairs there, by the door.

9 We have the same rules for the hearings in
10 every place we go. Last night, the first of the
11 hearings was in Stockton. We were in a building at
12 the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds that had no
13 air-conditioning and about 500 people, so we didn't
14 have quite the level of informal discussion that
15 we're having tonight.

16 I'd like to begin by introducing two
17 members of the policy committee, the people who make
18 the decisions within the CalFed organization, who are
19 joining me for the hearing tonight. Jim Lecky, who
20 is Assistant Regional Director for Protected
21 Resources with the National Marine Fishery Service,
22 and Walter Yep, Chief of the Commission of Planning
23 for the Army Corps of Engineers in the Sacramento
24 District.

25 Now, let me, then, go on to how we will

1 proceed tonight. We've asked everyone who speaks to
2 please fill out one of these yellow cards, and I will
3 call speakers in the order in which we got the cards.
4 The good news is, you may submit written comments of
5 any length on the draft environmental documents. The
6 other news is, all speaking comments must be limited
7 to three minutes.

8 And to help you gauge three minutes, we
9 have a little light here. Green means go, yellow
10 means you have one minute left, and red means please
11 wind up your sentence or at least the paragraph
12 you're on so that we can hear from everybody at a
13 reasonable time.

14 We ask that you speak at the podium over
15 here. I hope you'll be able to see the light. We
16 have the same equipments everywhere we go, and some
17 rooms -- in some rooms it works better than in
18 others.

19 As you can see, everything that's being
20 said in these hearings is being transcribed so that
21 there will be a complete record available for
22 everyone as to who said what at each hearing. To
23 make this record work, however, we need your help in
24 speaking clearly so that the reporter can get down
25 what you say.

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1 Unfortunately, we had a couple of people
2 who raced through some very technical material last
3 night, and at the end of the evening we had to chase
4 after them to try to get written copies so we could
5 get down what they said into the written record.

6 Now, finally, to help make the evening go
7 smoothly and so we don't lose a lot of time as people
8 who are in the middle of these rows work their way
9 out, when I call speakers, I'll call three at a time.
10 That is, I'll call the first speaker and then the
11 second and the third.

12 And if, when your name is called, you would
13 move down to the front row, I think it will mean we
14 won't be losing a lot of time with people shuffling.
15 Everybody crowds at the aisles, and so people in the
16 middle will take a moment to get out if you don't
17 move down when I first call your name.

18 So, unless there are questions about the
19 procedure, we'll begin. Our first speaker is Ed
20 Royce of the Municipal Water District of Orange
21 County, followed by Bill Pauli of the Farm Bureau,
22 followed by Carol Montano, if I'm reading it right,
23 of the San Gabriel Valley M.W.D.

24 So Mr. Royce.

25 MR. ROYCE: Thank you. My name is Ed Royce,

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1 Senior, and I'm an elected director with the
2 Municipal Water District of Orange County, which is a
3 member agency of the Metropolitan Water District of
4 Southern California. As such, we provide water to
5 1.8 million Orange County residents and businesses
6 throughout 27 cities and water districts.

7 I am speaking tonight on behalf of my
8 district and the Water Advisory Committee of Orange
9 County, which represents the interests of all the
10 public and private water providers in the county.

11 The Delta is a critical source of drinking
12 water for two-thirds of all Californians. As such,
13 we have approached a CalFed process based on the
14 promise by CalFed that it would, one, work to improve
15 source water quality to allow water suppliers to meet
16 state and federal standards; two, that it would
17 ensure a reliable water supply; and three, that it
18 would do all this in an environmentally responsible
19 manner.

20 We believe this is the appropriate course
21 of CalFed and that CalFed is trying to do just that.
22 Nevertheless, the Programmatic CalFed Environmental
23 Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report does
24 nothing more than promise to try to achieve what we
25 had been led to believe it would succeed in

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1 accomplishing.

2 We also believe that the PEIS/EIR is an
3 unenforceable plan because it fails to deal with
4 regulatory uncertainty, specifically, the uncertainty
5 brought forth by the Endangered Species Act. A
6 CalFed plan for a Bay-Delta solution that can be
7 overridden by the ESA puts the public's water supply
8 and the quality of that supply directly at risk.

9 We strongly believe CalFed must work with
10 federal representatives to develop and encourage
11 legislation that corrects this uncertainty, and it is
12 critical that this be addressed in the PEIS/EIR.

13 Further, we believe CalFed should submit a
14 complete PEIS/EIR for public comment that not only
15 addresses environment restoration, but also includes
16 a water management strategy, detailed assurances, a
17 specific governance plan, and a plan to finance the
18 preferred alternative.

19 Each element of the program has
20 ramifications affecting other elements, and --

21 THE HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Royce, I'm sorry to do
22 this to you, but the three minutes are gone.

23 MR. ROYCE: Oh.

24 THE HEARING OFFICER: We look forward to
25 the written statement.

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1 MR. ROYCE: Well, to summarize, we cannot
2 support a record of the city -- of the PEIS/EIR.
3 Thank you.
4 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, sir.
5 Bill Pauli, Carol Montano, followed by
6 Martin Andrews of the Inyo-Mono County Farm Bureau.
7 Mr. Pauli.
8 Mr. Pauli was with us last night in
9 Stockton, so that's why we're smiling at each other
10 here.
11 MR. PAULI: Mr. Pauli might be with you through
12 the endurance contest.
13 THE HEARING OFFICER: I was about to ask that
14 question.
15 MR. PAULI: But good evening. My name is Bill
16 Pauli, and I'm president of the California Farm
17 Bureau.
18 The stated purpose of CalFed is
19 coordinating a plan to assure reliable, high-quality
20 water for all of California's people, which we
21 believe includes family farmers, while addressing
22 Bay-Delta environmental concerns.
23 It's gone way beyond that in terms of land
24 and water acquisition. We need to plan for our
25 future and the expected population growth in our

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1 state and the need for additional water supplies,
2 additional water storage, water quality, and water
3 reliability.
4 We need a balanced and accountable
5 approach, not a lopsided approach that primarily
6 deals with the massive land and water acquisition by
7 state and federal agencies as a solution.
8 CalFed programs would affect virtually all
9 areas of the state. It takes water away from the
10 areas of origin and the people of those communities
11 through transverse conservation and the destruction
12 of agricultural resources, and it ignores the future
13 needs of the local communities as they grow and
14 develop.
15 What are the benefits to family farmers and
16 our farm workers? The document states that the
17 conversion of farmland is irreversible and
18 irretrievable. You tell me, what happened to
19 balance? Getting better together, under CalFed,
20 family farmers and farm workers are terminated and
21 expendable, with no guarantees that the species nor
22 the salmon will improve nor benefit.
23 CalFed has missed the mark. It attempts to
24 undermine existing water rights. It does not support
25 additional offstream storage, has a hallow promise

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1 for groundwater storage, does not provide for
2 mitigation for lost ag land, as required by
3 California law.
4 It restrains local growth through lost
5 water and land, proposes levee setbacks as a solution
6 to flood control, ignores endangered species and
7 their impact on salmon, and overlooks the impact of
8 industrial, commercial, and sports fishing on the
9 salmon population. CalFed fails to provide for our
10 future or our farms.
11 Thank you, and we'll submit additional
12 written comments.
13 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Pauli.
14 Carol Mont- -- I'm sorry if I am
15 mispronouncing the name.
16 MS. MONTANO: Pass at this time.
17 THE HEARING OFFICER: Pardon me?
18 MR. MONTANO: I'd like to pass at this time.
19 THE HEARING OFFICER: All right. Thank you.
20 Then Martin Andrews, followed by Michael
21 Riddell and Mark Norton.
22 MR. ANDREWS: I am Martin Andrews, Farm Bureau
23 President for Inyo and Mono Counties. That means the
24 Owens Valley for most of you. You think of the Owens
25 Valley as a beautiful, water-rich area that was once

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1 an agricultural paradise. You are half right. It is
2 beautiful.
3 The fact of the matter is that the Owens
4 Valley is and was a beautiful but marginal
5 agricultural area. In the early part of this
6 century, virtually all farmers and ranchers gladly
7 sold their land to the city of Los Angeles. They
8 were subsistence operations that did not compete well
9 with other agricultural areas, for many reasons.
10 The city of Los Angeles now exports much
11 of the Valley's water to the city. The Owens Valley
12 has been taken from a submarginal agricultural area
13 to a tourism area. The terrain and climate that made
14 the Owens Valley a poor agricultural area lends
15 itself to tourism activities.
16 Government now owns almost all the land in
17 the Owens Valley. Life in the Owens Valley could be
18 far better without the easily swayed competing
19 interests of the various bureaucratic managements,
20 such as the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land
21 Management, California Department of Fish and Game,
22 as well as the city of Los Angeles. Government has
23 proven to be a poor land manager.
24 If you believe the city of Los Angeles did
25 real damage to the Owens Valley, you should step back

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1 and see what the CalFed process proposes to do to the
2 greatest agricultural area in the world, California
3 Central Valley. America did not miss the
4 agricultural production from the Owens Valley;
5 America will miss the reduced productivity slated for
6 the Central Valley.

7 America obtains half of its fresh fruits
8 and vegetables from California. Sadly, agriculture
9 means little to a state when wealth in other areas,
10 such as the computer industry, is staggering. CalFed
11 proposes to reduce private land holdings and
12 agricultural production in the Central Valley.
13 America cannot make up the resulting food supply loss
14 in the cornbelt or on any of its sovereign soil.

15 Cutting to the chase, the CalFed process
16 has developed into one where land and water will be
17 easily stolen from agriculture for municipal and
18 environmental uses. Great gobs of land will be
19 removed from the production base and laid waste by
20 eventual government overmanagement. Agriculture will
21 suffer, California will suffer, America will suffer.

22 Throughout the history, one of the
23 requirements of stable government is the ability to
24 supply citizens with cheap and plentiful food.
25 Currently, America and California agriculture is able

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1 to overproduce; therefore, food is cheap and
2 plentiful. We now enjoy cheap, plentiful, and safe
3 food. In America, we are currently so overfed and
4 ignorant about where food comes from, that we have
5 the luxury to make ignorant choices.

6 THE HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Andrews, I'm sorry.
7 Three minutes go quickly.

8 Michael Riddell, followed by Mark Norton
9 and Rudy [sic] Van Gelder.

10 MR. RIDDELL: My name is Michael Riddell. I'm
11 an attorney with the law firm of Best, Best &
12 Krieger, and we represent the Crestline-Lake
13 Arrowhead Water Agency, and I'm providing testimony on
14 their behalf.

15 The Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency
16 was created by a special act of the state legislature
17 in 1962. They are one of 30 state water contractors
18 that take water from the State Water Project. The
19 agency supplies imported water from the Project to a
20 large portion of the San Bernardino mountains.

21 Some of the agency's customers are retail
22 customers receiving water service to their homes
23 directly from the agency. Other customers are
24 purveyors themselves, who take water on a wholesale
25 basis from the agency and then deliver it on a retail

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1 basis to their own customers.

2 For many of these customers, the sources
3 supplied from the agency is their only source of
4 supply. If they're not able to receive water from
5 the agency, they are simply without water.

6 According to the terms of the agency's
7 contract with the state, the agency is entitled to
8 take 5,800 acre-feet of water per year from the State
9 Water Project. However, the agency rarely takes more
10 than 2,000 acre-feet of water per year from the
11 Project. So as you can see, the agency's current
12 demand for water is quite small.

13 However, when the people within the agency
14 need that water, it has to be there or else many of
15 them are without any water service whatsoever.

16 During the drought that occurred eight
17 years ago, when water supply conditions forced the
18 Department of Water Resources to cut back severely on
19 water supplied from the State Water Project, the
20 agency's initial allocation of water from the project
21 was so small that it would have created a serious
22 emergency for the folks living in the San Bernardino
23 mountains.

24 Of the 5,800 acre-feet of water which they
25 have been paying for the right to receive each year,

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1 consistently and at considerable expense, their
2 initial allocation for one year was going to be less
3 than 600 acre-feet.

4 If the Department of Water Resources had
5 not responded to the agency's plea for additional
6 water to cope with this emergency, then some of the
7 people within the agency's service area literally
8 would have had no water running when they turned on
9 the faucets in their homes.

10 So the agency's No. 1 priority in the Draft
11 EIS/EIR for the Bay-Delta Program is to make sure
12 that the program will increase the quantity and, in
13 particular, improve the reliability of the water
14 supply which the people within the agency have been
15 paying a lot of money for a lot of years to receive.

16 The agency wants to see hard, tangible,
17 numerical targets for increased water supply and
18 improved reliability during the first several years
19 of the program. It has been suggested that the
20 documents set forth water supply goals of at least a
21 net increase of 200,000 to 400,000 acre-feet per year
22 during the first seven years of the program. The
23 agency not only supports that modest proposal, but
24 really feels that such a goal is not too much to ask,
25 given the considerable expense incurred in the past

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1 and what can be anticipated in the future.
2 If the best way to achieve that goal is to
3 proceed immediately with the planning and
4 implementation of the South Delta improvements, then
5 the agency believes that the documents should provide
6 for the implementation of those improvements right
7 away.

8 THE HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Riddell, again, three
9 minutes go quickly. I'm sorry.

10 THE WITNESS: Thank you. I'll submit written
11 comments.

12 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, sir.
13 Mark Norton, Rudy Van Gelder, Steve
14 Stockton.

15 MR. NORTON: My name is Mark Norton. I'm with
16 the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, also known
17 as SAWPA. Our agency is a joint powers agency
18 composed of five major water districts that share the
19 Santa Ana River watershed.

20 The Santa Ana watershed covers an area of
21 approximately 2,650 square miles, including parts of
22 San Bernardino, Riverside, Los Angeles, and Orange
23 Counties. It is home to about 5 million people.

24 The focus of my comments tonight center on
25 the groundwater storage component of the CalFed

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1 preferred program plan. As background, current
2 population projections for the Santa Ana watershed
3 region indicate that this area will experience a
4 30 percent population growth by the year 2020, which
5 translates to into about 1.5 to 2 million additional
6 new residents. Increasing water demands to service
7 the new population will significantly stress the
8 current water delivery system.

9 The region currently relies on 400,000
10 acre-feet of imported water annually, which is
11 becoming increasingly unreliable due to federal
12 requirements on California to reduce its use of
13 Colorado River water. The economic stability of the
14 region is dependent upon developing and maintaining a
15 clean and reliable water supply and an emphasis
16 towards self-reliance.

17 Over the last 30 years, SAWPA and its
18 member agencies have been planning and dealing with
19 complex problems involved in watershed management.
20 In order to assure a sustainable water supply in the
21 future, SAWPA has proposed a regional program that
22 will make the watershed entirely self-sufficient
23 during drought cycles and not require increased
24 imported water during normal water years.

25 The benefits of this program will be felt

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1 by all water users within the service region and
2 statewide, as SAWPA reduces a significant portion of
3 urban Southern California's reliance on water
4 transfers from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and
5 the Colorado River, especially during dry years.

6 One of the major elements of our regional
7 program is the storage of water supply. Within the
8 Santa Ana region there are several groundwater basins
9 that can store water during wet years, for use during
10 drought cycles. In order to truly have a reliable
11 water supply, the region needs to store three years'
12 worth of water supplies, about 1.3 million acre-feet.

13 One of the key basins we see for storing
14 water is Chino basin, which has available capacity of
15 up to 1 million acre-feet. Work is under way in
16 discussions with Metropolitan Water District to start
17 a groundwater banking program in Chino basin.

18 In order to accomplish this local storage
19 and reduce dependence on state project water from the
20 Bay-Delta, assistance is needed from the parties
21 associated with the CalFed Bay-Delta Program. In the
22 past, CalFed representatives have collected
23 information on potential conjunctive use locations in
24 Southern California. This information was provided
25 in March of 1999.

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1 We now encourage the CalFed Bay-Delta
2 program to move quickly in the selection of specific
3 basins for conjunctive use storage in Southern
4 California, as suggested in the storage program
5 elements of the CalFed's Resource Management
6 Strategy.

7 We encourage CalFed to specifically call
8 out the Chino basin in your implementation documents
9 as one of the most viable storage locations for
10 conjunctive use storage in Southern California.

11 We also believe that under the CalFed
12 Stage 1 actions, funding should be specifically
13 directed for conjunctive use storage in Chino basin,
14 under the Integrated Water Management Bundle, as a
15 high priority action. SAWPA's member agencies and
16 the local agencies in the Chino basin are in a unique
17 position to move quickly into the implementation of
18 this major groundwater banking program at is time.

19 THE HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Norton, I'm afraid --
20 MR. NORTON: Out of time. Okay.

21 THE HEARING OFFICER: -- the time is gone.

22 MR. NORTON: Well, thank you very much.

23 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, sir.

24 Randy Van Gelder, Steve Stockton, David
25 Goad.

20

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1 MR. VAN GELDER: Yes. I'm Randy Van Gelder,
2 representing the San Bernardino Valley Municipal
3 Water District.

4 San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water
5 District is independent from and not a member of the
6 Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.
7 The area covers about 328 square miles centered here
8 in San Bernardino, and we have about 600,000 people.

9 Four times the area was tried to be annexed
10 into the Metropolitan, and four times it was soundly
11 defeated. The district entered into a contract for
12 state project water. In those days it was called the
13 Feather River Project, back in 1960.

14 In that, we agreed to pay over 1 billion,
15 with a B, dollars for a small portion, about 102,600
16 acre-feet of water as firm, dry year yield. In excess
17 of 250 million dollars is going to be spent over the
18 next few years on local distribution systems to move
19 that water throughout our valley and on to the
20 San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency.

21 During the 1960s there were several
22 thousand people involved in a series of lawsuits to
23 divide up the native waters of the Santa Ana River,
24 all the way from our area, clear down to the Newport
25 Beach. The area ended up being divided into three

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1 sections, between the beach and Prado Reservoir,
2 between Prado Reservoir and San Bernardino, and
3 between San Bernardino and the mouth of the Santa Ana
4 River, as it comes into the valley.

5 The cornerstone of the solution that was
6 reached in those lawsuits was that very high quality
7 state project imported water, at 220 parts per
8 million with salt, would be imported by
9 San Bernardino and paid for so that this area could
10 develop. The result being that that water could then
11 be used a second time in the Riverside County, by our
12 neighbors there, and yet a third time in Orange
13 County, so that the state project water that we do
14 import actually ends up being used three times in our
15 watershed.

16 But that requires that we have a very
17 good -- or very high quality of water, because each
18 increment of use ends up adding about 200 parts per
19 million.

20 The first State Water Project came in in
21 1972, and because of a series of wet years and less
22 growth than people thought we would have, we have not
23 needed much of that state project water. But as we
24 look to the future, we see an increase in demand.
25 This is not a new demand. This is not an unprojected

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1 demand. This is simply meeting the requirements that
2 we first saw back in 1960 and that the state agreed
3 to provide.

4 As sure as we've seen significant droughts
5 in the past, we will see prolonged droughts in the
6 future. Our ratepayers and taxpayers have agreed to
7 pay the cost for the state project water. We believe
8 that it should be the state and the federal
9 government's requirements that those obligations be
10 met and kept.

11 We're asked to comment on over 4,000 pages
12 of documents. Our initial review says that we don't
13 think -- although it's kind of fuzzy -- we do not
14 really know for certain that the CalFed process is
15 reaffirming those commitments.

16 Thank you. We'll be submitting our written
17 comments.

18 THE HEARING OFFICER: Good. Thank you, sir.
19 Steve Stockton, David Goad, and -- I can't
20 read the first name, I'm sorry to say, but
21 Voss -- Mr. or Ms. Voss of the Coachella Valley Water
22 District.

23 MR. STOCKTON: Good evening. My name is Steve
24 Stockton. I'm the general manager and chief engineer
25 of the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency. We are one of

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1 30 state water contractors that receive water from
2 the State Water Project.

3 Our contract with the state was signed in
4 1962, to deliver 17,000 acre-feet per year to meet
5 our long-term water supply needs.

6 There is currently an overdraft of
7 groundwater of more than 25 percent in the main
8 groundwater basin within the agency. There are
9 future demands for all of our contracted water and we
10 believe the state must deliver on water, as the
11 contract provides. In other words, a dependable
12 supply.

13 To meet that goal, I'm going to focus it on
14 the word that's been talked about several times, but
15 let's call it "the isolated facility." In our
16 belief, in order to ensure a dependable supply, we
17 believe we must have the isolated facility
18 constructed as part of the Phase 1 Delta solution.
19 Everyone knows it is required to solve the Delta
20 problems, including the environmental community.

21 Another important issue for the
22 San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency, and you've heard that
23 echoed several times tonight, is water quality. And
24 I'm going to focus on TDS, but there's also organics
25 and other issues.

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1 Increased TDS also increases cost of water
2 to all urban water users. TDS is very important to
3 the wastewater side of the water supply, which has
4 been basically ignored, in my opinion, and causes
5 wastewater dischargers to construct very expensive
6 desalting facilities. To meet that need, we believe
7 the only facility that does that is the isolated
8 facility.

9 The naysayers' argument about an isolated
10 facility, stating that it will not be automated [?]
11 correctly, should be rejected as pure delaying
12 tactics. We must not have "what if" governs water
13 policy, which seems to be the direction we're going.

14 If this type of thinking should prevail in
15 the CalFed process, which looks like it might, we,
16 including the environmental community, are headed for
17 the train wreck of all train wrecks in water supply
18 when the next drought occurs.

19 To bring this into focus, just look at this
20 last May and June and the near Delta smelt wreck that
21 almost occurred. To say it another way, the rail car
22 was switched onto the siding at the last possible
23 moment.

24 Also, think about the recent earthquake
25 activity throughout the world, and imagine the Delta

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1 was a 7.0 quake and complete collapse of the Delta
2 water system and no isolated facility. That will be
3 worse than the train wreck of train wrecks.

4 Gentlemen, please get on with what you know
5 and everyone knows is the right solution, and stop
6 the hand-wringing on the state water supply. Please
7 put some solid investments and facilities in the
8 initial water supply CalFed program.

9 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Stockton.
10 David Goad. I hope I'm reading this
11 correctly. If I'm not, I apology.

12 MR. GOAD: It's David Goad, and I'm just a
13 farmer from Cherry Valley, and I'm here because I've
14 recently got involved in the water situation. And I
15 am growing some trees that take a long time to
16 develop, and it takes a lot of water between now and
17 then.

18 Anyway, our community, based on the
19 California Water Plan Update Bulletin 160-98, pays
20 300 percent higher water rates than the rest of this
21 county and around here for agricultural purposes, and
22 currently our water agency is trying to eliminate our
23 cheaper agricultural rates.

24 We're claiming that we're -- the homeowners
25 shouldn't have to subsidize us. That concerns me.

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1 I'm not tied into this rate right now, but I have a
2 big concern about that.

3 In our area we have recently taken on some
4 very large golf courses. These golf courses consume
5 approximately 50 percent of all the water that is
6 currently consumed in our whole Pass area. I don't
7 see any plans for future development there. I don't
8 see any water trough with lines on it, that each of
9 the cities can look upon to make decisions and
10 growth.

11 I do see a panic situation, and it will be
12 me that will have his water shut off first when it
13 takes somebody's house next to a golf course or one
14 of our senators playing golf. I do love to play
15 golf, but I have concerns about my business.

16 I ask that your agency does place some
17 money in the -- into research and development of
18 water from our oceans. There's a plentiful amount
19 out there, and it solves a lot of issues.

20 The item I spoke about earlier, of a friend
21 of mine in Central Valley that was hurt by one of the
22 government's moves, his name is Kenneth Siebert. He
23 lives in Madera, California. His farm is in Mendota.
24 And you can check it out for yourself. He is a fine
25 Christian man in his community. He puts -- places

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1 funds in everybody's hands that needs it, that asks
2 for it. I believe the man has probably never been
3 over 30 days late on a bill in his life. He is
4 disgraced now, because he can't hardly pay his
5 children's college tuition. His father's helping him
6 out, and this is a grown man.

7 A grown man shouldn't have to suffer like
8 this at the government's hands. The government
9 should step in when they've hurt somebody like this
10 and help him out quickly and immediately.

11 And that's all I had to say. Thank you.

12 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Goad.
13 Mr. Voss, Robert Neufeld, and Craig
14 Britton.

15 MR. VOSS: I'm Tom Voss representing Coachella
16 Valley Water District. It appears that because of
17 the political pressure, CalFed has side-stepped or
18 delayed every decision to develop new water storage
19 conveyance facilities that are required to meet just
20 the existing needs, let alone the needs of another
21 15 million Californians expected in the next 20
22 years.

23 Despite 20 years of neglect and decline in
24 the state's water infrastructure, the CalFed proposal
25 makes no credible commitment to improve either the

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1 state's water supply or water quality. The program
2 has succumbed to special interests' political
3 pressures and does not address the water supply and
4 quality needs of the vast majority of Californians.

5 In order to succeed, CalFed must develop
6 programs that meet the needs of people, industry, and
7 agriculture, as well as the environment.

8 Thank you.

9 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Voss.

10 Robert Neufeld, Craig Britton, Peter
11 Cherbak, if I'm reading that correctly.

12 MR. NEUFELD: Gentlemen, my name is Robert
13 Neufeld. I'm an elected director of the Cucamonga
14 County Water District. I serve as the president of
15 that board, and I'm speaking on their behalf today.

16 Earlier, in the Q and A period,
17 Mr. Breitenbach had indicated that if storage was
18 ever needed, it would be addressed at that time.
19 That is an issue that, in reviewing the Phase 1
20 report, has caused a great deal of concern with water
21 purveyors in the Southern California area.

22 The water purveyors in Southern California
23 believe very strongly that groundwater storage and
24 conjunctive use must be a part of the CalFed plan.
25 It cannot be eliminated, it cannot be put aside, it

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1 cannot be addressed when people outside of the
2 Southern California area, where the largest center of
3 population exists, are dictating what is happening to
4 the majority of the people.

5 I addressed in the Q and A period earlier
6 the need to have this water storage as a part of the
7 CalFed program. We are concerned that special
8 interest groups in minority voices are controlling
9 the CalFed process and that we must listen to the
10 majority of the people.

11 And I'm sure you've heard many times this
12 evening, and hopefully you'll hear many times more,
13 that conjunctive use and groundwater storage, which
14 does not affect the environment in the way that
15 offstream storage does, should be and must be a part
16 of the CalFed process.

17 Thank you very much.

18 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

19 Craig Britton, Peter Cherbak, and then
20 Sandra Elrod.

21 MR. BRITTON: It was nice to hear a speaker I
22 could agree with there, the one who just spoke before
23 me.

24 I think when we say that the government is
25 the problem, we need to remember that we're the

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1 government. And we have a growing government because
2 we have a growing population. And there's increased
3 water demand not because the government is putting it
4 somewhere, in somebody's land, and raising the water
5 table or putting salts there, but because people are
6 using water and people are, as one speaker said,
7 putting in golf courses in the middle of deserts and
8 then saying that, "Gee, we don't have enough water
9 for the farmers."

10 And I think as we go about a development
11 project, I mean, we need to prioritize if we're going
12 to figure out how we're going to do it. And as a
13 long-time member of the Mono Lake Committee -- and it
14 wasn't until people finally agreed that: Okay. What
15 we're going to do with water on the east side of the
16 Sierras and with L.A. taking all the water, just
17 about, from the east side of the Sierras, is we're
18 going to say that saving Mono Lake is the No. 1
19 priority, and however you can serve enough water to
20 do that, it's up to you. And when that happened --
21 L.A. now, which has a much bigger population, is
22 using less water than it did ten years ago.

23 So conservation can help. That's probably
24 the No. 1 thing.

25 As for -- another thing I'd like to make a

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1 little aside about, you know, Orange County is going
2 to have a hearing down there. I wish they'd wait
3 until you guys were down there so the people who live
4 in this area could have more time to talk.

5 But as far as the point that the gentleman
6 from Orange County made, that we need to basically
7 gut the environmental laws and Endangered Species Act
8 so that we can get more water for Orange County and
9 other places, I think we should ask the citizens of
10 California, you know, do you want your rivers to look
11 like the Santa Ana River, or would you rather have
12 rivers that look like the Comsumnes River that you
13 saw?

14 So I think we need to, No. 1, as we're
15 doing this process, put natural ecosystem protection
16 and protection of species as the No. 1 goal.

17 No. 2. Farmland protection, farmland
18 that's managed for water conservation, because we
19 need food. It's in our national strategic interest
20 to be able to grow food cheap for our people.

21 Next, we need to protect industry and jobs.
22 They also need to conserve.

23 Finally, for those who want to make money
24 by bringing in more people, having more suburbs, more
25 sprawl, that should be very low down the list of

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1 priorities of why there should be water.
2 If you want to develop in the desert, it
3 should be up to you to show that you can get water
4 there in a manner that does not destroy the
5 environment, does not disrupt farming.

6 And the concept that it's inevitable, no.
7 Immigration policy has nothing to do with it. In
8 L.A. County, 25 percent of the people have not been
9 born in the United States. I have nothing against
10 anybody for their background, but if you're going to
11 increase population, you need to realize you pay the
12 consequence -- and to protect the America that we all
13 love, and not just to make money for other people.

14 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Britton.
15 Peter Cherbak, Sandra Elrod, Eileen Ansari.

16 MR. CHERBAK: My name is Peter Cherbak. I'm a
17 board of directors from the San Bernardino County
18 Farm Bureau, and I do agree with Mr. Britton that we
19 should take care of the species, but I add the human
20 species in on that also.

21 We have not built a water storage facility
22 since 1974. Planning for that was probably eight or
23 ten years prior to that. So for the last 25 to 30 --
24 almost 30 years now, we have not provided for any
25 additional water storage.

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1 The visionaries of the past saw the need
2 for this. You can go back into the '20s to where
3 J. B. Lippencott realized the need to do something
4 with the Delta, to bring water down to Southern
5 California. In those days, it was a little bit more
6 people thought in terms of California as a whole
7 rather than a north and south, which we have done
8 over the last 40, 50 years.

9 But to consider some kind of a CalFed
10 program without water storage, whether it be
11 underground or offstream -- I still think that
12 offstream is a great way to save water -- it should
13 be environmentally absolutely sound. There isn't
14 any -- I think the number of fish in California today
15 is by far more than what we've ever had before,
16 because we've got all the dams along the western
17 Sierras, and it certainly has added to recreational.

18 I still am wondering -- I had a question
19 earlier about commercial fisheries, and I don't see
20 anything as far as commercial fisheries that are
21 going to benefit by the -- well, perhaps -- maybe
22 some of the commercial fisheries -- from the salmon.
23 But that's about the only species that is.

24 But the idea of not being able to provide
25 storage is just absolutely ludicrous, as far as I'm

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1 concerned. And it should be something that would be
2 able to not only have bird population but also have
3 the fisheries.

4 The true visionaries of the past, I don't
5 think, would look on what the visionaries of today
6 would be.

7 The No. 1 issue supposedly is water
8 quality, and it's rather interesting. I find that --
9 you talked about adding salts to potable water, and
10 yet it is the other way around. You're adding fresh
11 water to the -- to the ocean and dumping it all in
12 there, instead of being able to use it in a more
13 expeditious manner.

14 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Cherbak.
15 Sandra Elrod, and then Councilmember -- I'm
16 sorry -- from Diamond Bar, and Robert Krieger.

17 MS. ELROD: Hi. My name is Sandra Elrod. I'm
18 with the Inland Empire Utilities Agency, and I was
19 asked by my board of directors to make a few
20 statements on their concerns and what they're doing
21 locally.

22 The Inland Empire Utilities Agency is a
23 water management agency who provides distribution of
24 imported water, water resources management within the
25 Chino basin groundwater and wastewater collection and

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1 treatment services to seven cities and two water
2 districts in the west end of San Bernardino County.

3 The agency is located in one of the most
4 rapidly growing regions in Southern California, and
5 its now current service population of 700,000 is
6 estimated to increase to well over 1 million by the
7 year 2020.

8 To support its growth, the Inland Empire
9 Utilities Agency is committed to addressing
10 environmental concerns and protecting, conserving,
11 and reclaiming natural resources through several
12 major programs, including groundwater management,
13 water reclamation, and water conservation.

14 A few of the agency's concerns are EPA's
15 future drinking water quality standard may require
16 significantly more expensive treatment of Delta
17 water. Improvements to the Bay-Delta water supplies
18 should protect the quality of drinking water
19 supplies. And in addition, the salinity of Delta
20 exports vary widely, and this has significant balance
21 impact on the Chino basin and our ability to comply
22 with the Santa Ana River Water Quality Control Board.

23 The agency is working to solve our local
24 salinity problems. In cooperation with the Santa Ana
25 Water Project Authority, construction has begun on

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1 the Chino Basin Desalter Project, which is scheduled
2 to be operational in March of 2000. Along with the
3 agency co-composting facility, the desalter project
4 represents the agency's second effort to begin the
5 process of controlling and removing salt from the
6 Chino groundwater basin.

7 A goal of the agency is for the region to
8 be entirely self-sufficient during the drought cycle,
9 thus allowing more of the state's water resources to
10 be allocated to wildlife and agricultural during
11 these times.

12 Thank you.

13 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Miss Elrod.
14 Councilmember Eileen Ansari, Robert
15 Krieger, and Dick Heil.

16 COUNCILMEMBER ANSARI: Good evening. Thank you
17 for allowing me to testify. I am Eileen Ansari,
18 councilmember from Diamond Bar, California. I'm also
19 a regional delegate to Southern California
20 Association of Government, which involves six
21 counties, which is Los Angeles, Ventura,
22 San Bernardino, Imperial, Orange, and Riverside
23 County.

24 The regional council is made up of elected
25 officials who serve the region. I am representing

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1 the Water Policy Committee from SCAG.

2 While we are very aware of the complexity
3 of the Bay-Delta water system and the difficulty that
4 this has created for your work with so many interest
5 groups, we are concerned about the program's ability
6 to improve water quality throughout the system.

7 As you know, improving water quality has
8 been one of the four major goals of the process.
9 This key objective has enormous significance for the
10 Delta's ecosystem as well as for water consumers in
11 Northern -- Northern, Central, and Southern
12 California.

13 To CalFed's credit, the proposed program
14 identifies the need to lower salinity, organic, and
15 bromide levels in the Delta. We do need improvements
16 in this area. What causes us concern, however, is
17 the lack of clear commitment to achieve specific
18 improvement results. Without a clear commitment, for
19 example, to deliver 150 TDS water, the urban water
20 agencies serving Southern California are faced with
21 much lower water use efficiencies, are faced with
22 significant lower treatment costs in order to comply
23 with tougher drinking water standards. The impact of
24 expensive treatment costs that result from CalFed's
25 failure to deliver water of sufficient quality in

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1 Stage 1 is an impact that is not addressed
2 satisfactorily in the preferred program alternative.

3 For whatever the benefits, adapted
4 management in this element does not assure us of
5 CalFed's commitment to real improvements in water
6 quality. In order for all the state to participate
7 in expensive levee restorations, habitat, or species
8 protection, we need to count on better water quality
9 in the Delta and south of the Delta. If this quality
10 is left to be a "we'll try our best" element of the
11 program, I have to tell you that the program will not
12 gain the support it needs to succeed.

13 With early program expenses exceeding
14 5 billion dollars, it is obvious to us that the real
15 timely value must be delivered to those who pay the
16 bill.

17 We in Southern California must be assured
18 that quality, reliable water, and storage is there.
19 We want our fair share.

20 With the program's current fuzziness on
21 expected water quality results, we believe that
22 CalFed needs to support and sharpen its pencils and
23 bring us a program that we can support, because it
24 will produce cleaner water and predictable terms in
25 needed time frames.

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1 Remember, California has 33 million people.
2 By 2020 we'll have 50 million people. In Southern
3 California SCAGs region, we expect to have a
4 population the size of Chicago in this region -- six
5 counties. So we want our fair share.

6 Thank you.

7 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Miss Ansari.
8 Mr. Krieger, Dick Heil, and Dan Ainsworth.

9 MR. KRIEGER: Thank you. I am Robert Krieger.
10 I'm a Southern Californian. Southern Californians
11 want reliable water supplies and they want quality
12 water supplies.

13 If at the end of the process and the end of
14 implementation of the Phase 1, or Stage 1, we don't
15 have reliable, high quality water supplies in
16 Southern California, CalFed will have failed.

17 In that respect, I think Southern
18 Californians want CalFed to identify specific
19 projects that will accomplish the necessary
20 reliability and quality of our water supply in
21 Southern California. And that -- that means, I
22 think, some real projects and not waiting for
23 technology to improve, because technology will never
24 improve to the degree that we want it to improve, to
25 build projects that we need.

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1 We need to get started now. We need to
2 spend those early funds on projects that will
3 accomplish something in the immediate future, because
4 Southern California needs especially good quality
5 water, and it needs it reliably.

6 Thank you.

7 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

8 Dick Heil, followed by Dan Ainsworth,
9 followed by John Norman.

10 MR. HEIL: Good evening. I'm Dick Heil,
11 representing Eastern Municipal Water District, a
12 Metropolitan Water District member agency for the
13 past 48 years. And without Metropolitan, by the way,
14 this area would be vastly different from what it is
15 today.

16 Our agency serves 555 square miles of
17 Western Riverside County. We depend on water from
18 Northern California and the Colorado River for about
19 three-quarters of the water that we provide to
20 roughly 420,000 people.

21 We're also among the statewide leaders in
22 production and marketing of high-quality recycled
23 water, which reduces demand for imported water. Our
24 concerns, therefore, relate to both water supply and
25 water quality.

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1 Wonderland style of arguments, that storage
2 discourages conservation, make absolutely no sense.

3 CalFed must facilitate the proper mix of
4 surface and groundwater storage to meet the economic
5 and the environmental needs of our state, and that
6 can be done.

7 In summary, the quality issue is critical.

8 CalFed's current approach offers little hope to water
9 agencies like ours that face the need to meet
10 expected stringent drinking water standards. CalFed
11 must provide the quality water we need in order to
12 meet current and future drinking water regulations
13 and to manage salinity levels in our service area.

14 Thank you.

15 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Heil.

16 Dan Ainsworth, John Norman, Bob Perkins.

17 MR. AINSWORTH: Good evening. I'm Dan
18 Ainsworth. I'm the general manager of Desert Water
19 Agency in Palm Springs. Desert Water Agency is a
20 state water contractor, and I'm here tonight
21 representing that agency's elected board of
22 directors.

23 Palm Springs exists in one of the most arid
24 regions of California, yet we have a vibrant economy,
25 and we also have a growing year-round population that

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1 Regulation of drinking water becomes more
2 demanding every year. Without adequate supplies of
3 high quality, Northern California water purveyors in
4 this region face a nearly impossible task of
5 economically meeting those ever-more-stringent
6 standards. A quality issue with equally profound
7 ramifications relates to recycled water. Without
8 appropriate attention to the quality of Delta water,
9 we won't have enough high-quality recycled water to
10 meet regulatory requirements and restrictions.

11 In terms of water supply, it now appears
12 the CalFed process could result in huge further
13 shifts away from human needs, instead of helping us
14 recover a million acre-feet of previous
15 reallocations. We cannot tolerate that.

16 Because of ever-changing state and federal
17 regulations, our region must have quantifiable
18 assurances that there will be no further loss of
19 water. We must have further assurances that a clear
20 decision-making process is in place.

21 We must also have a reliable dry year
22 supply from the State Water Project. In wet years,
23 we must have our full SWP entitlement to supplement
24 and enhance local storage and conservation programs.

25 Water storage is crucial. Alice in

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1 supports the vitality of our valley.

2 Supporting our population and industry is a
3 generous groundwater basin of high-quality water.
4 The Desert Water Agency was founded back in 1961, and
5 at that time it was formed for the sole purpose of
6 becoming a contractor with the state for State Water
7 Project water.

8 The purpose of this action was to
9 supplement the groundwater supply to abate the
10 growing aquifer overdraft condition. Now, since that
11 time Desert Water Agency has taken on many other
12 functions, one of which has been the -- is the sole
13 provider of potable water to Palm Springs itself.

14 And in spite of aggressive groundwater
15 management and recharge efforts, our groundwater
16 basin continues in overdraft. A CalFed program that
17 results in decreases of available State Water
18 Project's supplies is simply not acceptable.

19 While it appears that the CalFed program
20 has made progress in some very important areas, such
21 as development of additional groundwater storage and
22 water use efficiency, overall, the program seems to
23 lack a real commitment to meet California's needs for
24 an increased and more reliable water supply of good
25 quality. In fact, the CalFed program provides no

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1 targets at all for an increased water supply.
2 Now, the ability to generate additional
3 water supplies is directly dependent on having the
4 necessary facilities in place, and recent past
5 investment in needed infrastructure has been sadly
6 inadequate.

7 Our agency is greatly concerned about the
8 apparent shift of the CalFed Bay-Delta Program and
9 the original approach of selecting a solution based
10 on technically superior performance to a phased
11 implementation approach that makes no commitment to a
12 technically feasible decision.

13 This morning I received a fax from the
14 governor's office regarding a call to action on key
15 water issues, specifically addressing the CalFed
16 Bay-Delta Program. I want to draw your attention to
17 one specific portion that appears on page 3 -- and
18 I'm sure you'll receive a copy shortly -- and I
19 quote: "Support in the water community for
20 aggressive ecosystem restoration was based on the
21 promise that ecosystem actions would be bundled with
22 actions to improve water management infrastructure
23 and reliability. These water management promises
24 have not been kept."

25 We have long supported the original

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1 principle of the CalFed program, which was to achieve
2 improvements in all areas: environmental, water
3 supply, and water quality. We are troubled that
4 CalFed is not on the path that will achieve a
5 balanced solution.

6 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Ainsworth.
7 John Norman, Bob Perkins, Geoffrey Vanden
8 Heuvel.

9 MR. NORMAN: I want to thank you for the
10 opportunity to address my concerns on the CalFed
11 program and the Sacramento Delta water issues.

12 I'm John Norman, general manager of the
13 Mojave Water Agency. The Mojave Water Agency is a
14 State Water Project contractor, like many of the
15 others in here, and a regional water agency covering
16 4900 square miles of high desert area in
17 San Bernardino County. This covers the area from
18 Victorville, Hesperia, down to the vital military
19 bases at Ford Irwin and Nebo and Barstow. And in
20 general, I would say water is the lifeblood of our
21 region and vital to our well-being.

22 Now, specifically, I am really amazed here.
23 Gentlemen, I think four years is an incredibly long
24 time to develop your current -- what I would call
25 fuzzy and shifting solutions. I'm dismayed, dismayed

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1 at your lack of progress in reaching consensus on
2 Bay-Delta water issues. After the years of study and
3 debate by CalFed, the state water contractors have
4 absolutely no assurances of firm water supplies even
5 in bountiful water years, and I'd like to bring an
6 example up.

7 This summer, in the midst of an excellent
8 water year, pumping on the State Water Project was
9 cut to 15 percent, based on what I would consider
10 some dubious claims that Delta smelt were seriously
11 impacted.

12 Now, it took a direct appeal to the
13 governor to get the water moving again, which does
14 not say much for the process. The accord between the
15 state and federal agencies in your organization was
16 supposed to return control of the Delta water
17 resources to California. Instead, it appears that
18 federal regulators continue to control our vital
19 water resources with little regard for California's
20 real water needs.

21 CalFed seems to offer guarantees for fish
22 only, not for the people and industry of California.
23 We need a program that is equitable and balanced
24 among the needs for cities, farms, and the
25 environment.

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1 CalFed, it appears to me, also, offers no
2 credible commitment to invest in needed facilities to
3 improve our water supply and water quality in
4 Southern California. We need additional water
5 storage facilities near the Delta, to take advantage
6 of surplus water when available, and we also need an
7 intake structure and conveyance system upstream from
8 the Delta to protect California fisheries and improve
9 the quality of the State Water Project.

10 I want to thank you again for the
11 opportunity to present my comments.

12 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, sir.

13 Are there any more cards?

14 MS. HOLCOMB: No, there are not.

15 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. We have six more
16 speakers. Normally we take a break at about this
17 time, but if you'd like to keep going -- and our
18 reporter, if she can keep going -- I think maybe so
19 everybody can get home sooner, we'll just keep going.

20 If anybody would like a break -- you've
21 been here a while. Okay. I gather the consensus is
22 to keep going.

23 This, then, is the last call to speak, so
24 if you wish to speak, fill out a card now or we'll
25 conclude with the batch we have here.

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1 Bob Perkins, Riverside County Farm Bureau;
2 Geoffrey Vanden Heuvel, and Randy Hill.

3 MR. PERKINS: Good evening. I am Bob Perkins,
4 executive manager of Riverside County Farm Bureau,
5 the nonprofit association of farmers and ranchers
6 throughout Riverside County. And on behalf of my
7 members, I am impelled here to restate the obvious.

8 We live in a free country. California's
9 population will continue to increase. And I'm
10 certainly aware of the many projections about the
11 increase expected in our area and in Southern
12 California.

13 There will be more demand for water.
14 Failure to plan now for storage to meet this certain
15 demand will result in future shortages. Any shortage
16 puts all water rights and all uses at risk, including
17 environmental needs.

18 Without a commitment to storage, this plan
19 is fatally flawed.

20 And I thank you for the opportunity.

21 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Perkins.

22 Geoffrey Vanden Heuvel, Randy Hill, Vice
23 Mayor Robin Lowe.

24 MR. VANDEN HEUVEL: I am Geoffrey Vanden Heuvel,
25 a dairy farmer here in Chino and Southern California,

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1 speaking on behalf of Milk Producers Council, the
2 dairy producers trade association, and we'd like to
3 associate ourselves with the comments of the Southern
4 California Water Committee, which will be entered
5 formally into the process later on.

6 We want to say, first of all, how
7 disappointed we are, because CalFed is so much less
8 than it could have been. It started with so much
9 promise and so much goodwill, and when we all got
10 together -- in fact, I think it was almost this same
11 panel -- a year ago, or maybe even longer ago, when
12 we were looking at the draft alternatives, we were
13 looking at three alternatives. And we put a lot of
14 effort into examining those alternatives, and we
15 supported, many of us, Alternative 3, because that
16 looked like the best alternative to meet the
17 objectives of the program, and felt that while we
18 knew they were controversial, that we would make
19 progress from that point on.

20 And are, frankly, incredibly dismayed to
21 see how far back CalFed has gone. And, in fact, in
22 discussions -- a conversation I had with one of the
23 participants who's been in these water wars, as
24 they've come to be known, for 20 years, I asked
25 him -- I said, "Have we made any progress at all in

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1 five years?" And he said, "No. We're in the same
2 place today that we were five years ago, and the only
3 reason we think we've made any progress is because
4 it's rained."

5 And I think that's really the final point I
6 want to make.

7 Another civilization, in another day,
8 probably would have done some extreme things to
9 whoever was in charge of our water supply when we
10 started draining the San Luis Reservoir to save the
11 Delta smelt.

12 You know, I read Steven Ambrose's book,
13 Undaunted Courage, about Meriwether Lewis, the Lewis
14 and Clark Expedition, recently this summer, and
15 there's a little passage in there about the trouble
16 Meriwether Lewis had one night, because one of the
17 soldiers who was put on guard while they were in
18 hostile Indian territory fell asleep. And the
19 penalty for a soldier who falls asleep on watch is
20 death.

21 And I must say, that's far too extreme in
22 this case, but I'll tell you, we, the public, invest
23 in the establishment the responsibility to husband
24 these essential resources. And CalFed is the
25 embodiment of the establishment. And CalFed,

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1 frankly, at this point, I think we must determine,
2 has been a failure.

3 You have precious little time to save this.
4 Cal -- the Delta doesn't have to be fixed.
5 California can have the wreck, and that is exactly
6 the course we're on.

7 Thank you.

8 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, sir.

9 Randy Hill, Vice Mayor Robin Lowe, Steve
10 Arakawa.

11 MR. HILL: Good evening. My name is Randy Hill.
12 I'm the general manager with the Victor Valley Water
13 District. We're a special district in the high
14 desert, about 45 square miles service area.

15 There's certainly a lot of problems with
16 water in the state of California. We have our fair
17 share. And possibly a solution I'd like to talk a
18 little bit about for our area -- the high desert is
19 in a severe state of overdraft. It's been
20 overdrafted for more than 50 years now. And there's
21 a tremendous amount of water that's been removed from
22 the ground. And in the future, because that area is
23 now 100 percent relying on groundwater, it's going to
24 become very, very dependent on imported water, and
25 primarily from the State Water Project.

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1 I would like to request that that area, the
2 Victor Valley area, be considered as a facility -- a
3 location for groundwater storage for conjunctive use
4 area. It's an ideal location for that. The area is
5 immediately upstream of Silverwood. The State Water
6 Project goes right through that project area, and
7 because of the overdraft in the area, there is about
8 a million acre-feet of usable storage in that area.
9 And if we could take the water in times when it's
10 ample and good quality, take it out of the aqueduct,
11 put it into the ground, that will reduce our area's
12 substantial future demand on the State Water Project,
13 so that in dry times, when that water needs to go
14 further south to other communities, our area could be
15 taking it out of the ground where it's been stored
16 there in advance.

17 So once again, I'd like to request that the
18 Victor Valley area be considered as a location for
19 groundwater storage and conjunctive use.

20 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Hill.

21 Ms. Lowe, followed by Steve Arakawa.

22 VICE MAYOR LOWE: Good evening, gentlemen. My
23 name is Robin Lowe, and I'm currently the vice mayor
24 of the town of Hemet. We're located in the
25 southwestern portion of Riverside County.

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1 We represent a varied community.
2 48 percent of our population is retired. We have one
3 of the best agricultural areas. Our citrus is world
4 renowned. When we go to our sister city in Japan,
5 they ask us to bring our home-grown grapefruit and
6 oranges. They know what California is famous for.

7 A few years ago Senator Costas called on me
8 to promote Prop 204. I went to the people of
9 Riverside County. I sit on the regional council at
10 SCAG. At that time I was also on the environment
11 committee.

12 Today I feel as though I have lied to
13 2 million people. I am totally dismayed with the
14 CalFed process. I have been to Washington with our
15 senators. We lobbied other states on the East Coast
16 and in the heartland of America. We told them that
17 the California people had a plan, and we were willing
18 to pay for it.

19 Metropolitan Water District is building one
20 of the largest reservoirs in this state in my
21 backyard. They had the foresight to build it south
22 of the San Andreas fault. They knew we needed water
23 storage. And it amazes me that people in Northern
24 California don't know that.

25 This is not a north-south divisive issue.

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1 California, as we all know, is the seventh largest
2 economy in the world. We're a country amongst
3 ourselves. It's not too late to apply common sense
4 to this process and to make a lot of us and a lot of
5 my constituents believers again.

6 Thank you.

7 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

8 Steve Arakawa. And then, Miss Montano, do
9 you wish to pass?

10 MS. MONTANO: I'll pass.

11 THE HEARING OFFICER: All right. Thank you.

12 Again, anyone else wishing to speak, please
13 fill out a yellow card. If not, Mr. Arakawa with the
14 Metropolitan Water District will be our final speaker
15 tonight.

16 MR. ARAKAWA: Thank you. My name is Steve
17 Arakawa. I am representing the Metropolitan Water
18 District of Southern California, and Metropolitan is
19 a wholesaler to the six counties in Southern
20 California.

21 There are a number of other State Water
22 Project contractors that were here tonight that are
23 not Metropolitan, and so I think it's important to
24 understand that there are a number of interests down
25 here beyond Metropolitan, on the water side, that

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1 have a vital stake here.

2 We wholesale water. 16 million people in
3 our service area. And we have a State Water Project
4 contract that we pay for year in, year out, for an
5 entitlement of 2 million acre-feet.

6 We have been a full participant in the
7 CalFed process for the last five years. We were part
8 of the Bay-Delta Accord that was signed in 1994. And
9 we were fully committed to protecting the Delta when
10 we put up 30 million dollars for ecosystem
11 restoration and worked on the Battle Creek Project.

12 Our continued support for CalFed and the
13 CalFed process will depend upon whether CalFed can
14 make some near-term decisions that will enhance our
15 source water quality and our water supply
16 reliability.

17 Currently that program is headed in the
18 wrong direction, and the EIR is headed in the wrong
19 direction. Benefits for water users, in terms of
20 quality and supply, have not been forthcoming in the
21 EIR.

22 I believe CalFed has fallen victim to a
23 paralyzed consensus process, a consensus, I think,
24 well intended, because we need to bring the various
25 parties together -- this is not north-south -- but

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1 also paralyzation, in that decisions have not been
2 made. Regulatory decisions, however, have moved
3 forward. The Delta smelt situation this spring is an
4 example of that.

5 This situation is not acceptable. To
6 reinvigorate CalFed, the state and federal
7 governments, and hopefully with the leadership of
8 Bruce Babbitt and Governor Davis, must commit to a
9 plan of action now. They must include in that plan
10 of action how benchmarks for source water quality
11 will be provided, how self-felt [phonetic]
12 improvement that will allow for full pumping capacity
13 during wet years will be provided, how an
14 environmental water account can operate both for the
15 environment but also protect the water supply, uses,
16 and water quality needs -- and regulatory assurances
17 that do not further erode our existing water supply.
18 Near-term decisions regarding surface storage and
19 groundwater storage must be part of this, as well.

20 In addition to that, the CalFed EIR must
21 look at the various alternatives and look at the cost
22 ramifications, the effectiveness of each of these
23 alternatives, and determine whether it makes more
24 sense to make improvements in the Delta versus making
25 improvements outside the Delta. All of that should

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1 be disclosed in the EIR.

2 We will be presenting detailed comments by
3 the deadline. Thank you.

4 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, sir.

5 Thank you again for coming tonight. I hope
6 you found it an informative evening. We certainly
7 found your testimony informative.

8 (The proceedings were adjourned at 8:06 p.m.)
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3 CERTIFICATE
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6

7 I, JOANNE P. CUNNINGHAM, C.S.R. No. 2734,
8 in and for the State of California, do hereby
9 certify:

10 That the foregoing proceedings were taken
11 down by me in stenotype at the time and place stated
12 herein and represent a true and correct transcript of
13 the proceedings.

14 I further certify that I am not interested
15 in the event of the action.

16 Witness my hand this 25th day of August,
17 1999.
18
19

20
21 _____
22 Certified Shorthand
23 Reporter in and for the
24 State of California
25

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