

**CONTRA COSTA
WATER DISTRICT**

1331 Concord Avenue
P.O. Box H2O
Concord, CA 94524
(510) 688-8000 FAX (510) 688-8122

June 4, 1997

Directors

Joseph L. Campbell
President

James Pretti
Vice President

Elizabeth R. Anello
Bette Boatman
Noble O. Eizenko, D.C.

Walter J. Bishop
General Manager

Mr. Kurt Ladensack
East Bay Municipal Utility District
P.O. Box 24055, MS 305
Oakland, California 94623-1055

**Subject: Blended Water Alternative for EBMUD's American River Project
EIR/EIS**

Dear Mr. Ladensack:

On May 14, 1997, the Contra Costa Water District ("CCWD") sent you its comments on the Revised Notice of Preparation and Notice of Intent ("Revised NOP/NOI") for the East Bay Municipal Utility Water District's ("EBMUD") Supplemental Water Supply Project Joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (dated April 10, 1997). CCWD had also submitted comments related to EBMUD's American River Project and the Folsom South Canal Connection ("FSCC") Project on previous occasions (Letter from Richard Denton to Maria Morrison dated February 29, 1996; Letter from Gregory Gartrell to Maria Solis dated April 3, 1997).

CCWD staff met with EBMUD staff in Oakland on May 27, 1997 to explain CCWD's concerns. Since that meeting, CCWD has considered alternatives that build off our previous comments and that could still meet EBMUD's dry year water supply needs and should be analyzed in the EIR/EIS. CCWD understands EBMUD's desire to find a solution to its future dry year shortages as soon as possible and ahead of the current schedule for completion of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. However, the EIR/EIS should analyze an alternative that would enable EBMUD to take its American River supply serve to meet EBMUD's dry year demands from the Delta on an interim basis until completion of the Final CALFED Programmatic EIR/EIS. This alternative would be based on using a blend of Mokelumne River water from the Mokelumne Aqueduct and water diverted from the Delta under EBMUD's water supply contract with the Central Valley Project. The Delta diversions could from the Bixler Pumping Plant or a location on Middle River.

Taking a blend of Mokelumne and Delta water during normal years would help meet the timing concerns of EBMUD stated as the reason for not waiting for the completion of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program EIR/EIS and would allow EBMUD to better evaluate whether the preferred alternative was consistent with EBMUD's future water supply and water quality needs. If so, EBMUD's participation in the CALFED solution could provide cost savings to its customers while assisting in the success of the CALFED solution, something we all agree is vital to the state's water needs.

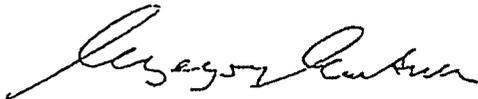
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The blended supply could be treated at EBMUD's full treatment facilities in San Leandro, El Sobrante and San Pablo which receive equivalent quality water now from the terminal reservoirs. EBMUD could evaluate the impact of a 5% Delta blend on the Orinda, Lafayette and Walnut Creek plants on delivered water quality. Notwithstanding present capacity problems at Walnut Creek, the available capacity at Orinda and Lafayette could easily accommodate a short term small blending solution to respond to the second and third year of a drought. This option needs to be evaluated for its impact on EBMUD, and whether that impact is greater than what the state water users relying on the Delta would experience during a drought.

EBMUD should also continue to examine alternatives that rely on Delta supplies, as was suggested in CCWD's previous comments and those of the Central Delta Water Agency. All alternatives should be analyzed in terms of changes in Central Valley operations (for example, using DWRSIM or PROSIM) to determine if there are any water supply impacts on other water users. The EIR/EIS alternatives should also be analyzed in terms of the changes in Delta water quality (using the Fischer Delta Model, or a similar salinity transport model for the Delta). These water quality data would also provide the basis for a detailed analysis of treating various blends of Mokelumne and Delta water.

We look forward to examining the blended water alternative with you in more detail at our next meeting. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact me at (510) 688-8100.

Sincerely,



Gregory Gartrell
Director of Planning

GG/RAD