

CONTACT MEMOS

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Date: September 9, 1996
Contact: Carl Hauge, Chief Hydrogeologist, DWR
Setting: Lunch Meeting

Carl Hauge and I discussed his perception of various conjunctive use issues. The following is a summary of his key points and impressions.

1) Carl discussed the many ways in which the term conjunctive use is used. Many water districts, for example, can be considered to perform conjunctive use, since they rely primarily on surface water when it is available and use groundwater when surface water supplies are scarce. A formal conjunctive use program would be a procedure whereby groundwater is used at specific times and then replenished, or replenished first and then used when needed.

In lieu recharge as defined by the water code is a program where one uses surface water instead of groundwater (turns the pumps off), allowing the aquifer to recover; the term *in lieu* also has been used to mean pumping groundwater instead of (in lieu of) using surface water, which is not the meaning in the water code.

Carl's main point here is that it would be beneficial if the terms conjunctive use and in lieu were defined so that everyone had a clear understanding of what is meant.

2) Carl listed some additional contacts and projects that involve conjunctive use or groundwater management that he thought would provide relevant information to the project:

- a. American Basin Conjunctive Use Study
- b. Tehama County Groundwater Management Plan
- c. Harrison Phipps and Jim Eagan, Yolo County
- d. Solano County's AB 3030 plan
- e. Friant-Kern Water Users Association

3) Carl envisions a state-wide conjunctive use program consisting of a number of local programs producing water for a common purpose (increasing flow into the Delta). These local projects would operate under and be driven by local political, institutional, legal and technical parameters, which will likely vary from project to project. Carl believes that these programs may have the ability to provide between 100,000 to 200,000 acre-feet of water for the Delta program.

4) I asked Carl about some of the potential obstacles that may hinder a Bay-Delta conjunctive use program:

a. Lack of hydrogeologic data that would enable an understanding of the groundwater basin. A possible solution would be to fund studies such as the American Basin project. Carl emphasized that he does believe there are enough data currently available to proceed with conjunctive use pilot projects that would allow for a more accurate estimation of the quantity of water that may be produced for the Bay-Delta program.

b. Disagreement on the data. Carl believes that lots of public meetings and workshops would help resolve this issue.

c. Lack of political will to export groundwater. Again public education would be an effective tool.

d. Lack of recharge, extraction and conveyance facilities. This issue can be resolved through identification of infrastructure needs, careful planning, and raising of revenue.

e. Other issues that should be evaluated include: timing of wheeling water, water quality of extracted water, subsidence, and the management of the aquifers with respect to water quality.