

CONTACT MEMO

Date: September 19, 1996
Contact: Glen Pearson, Dan McManus, DWR Northern District
Setting: Lunch Meeting in Chico

Glen Pearson, Dan McManus and I met over lunch to discuss DWR Northern District's thoughts and approach to conjunctive use. The following is a summary of our meeting:

- 1) They indicated that DWR Northern District supports conjunctive use as a program to provide additional water to the Delta. They believed that any conjunctive use program should have as a component groundwater quality and quantity monitoring.
- 2) They indicated that attention should be given to the environmental aspects of a conjunctive use program, such as affect on riparian vegetation and flows to rivers and sinks. They indicated that some members of the environmental community were not happy with the EIR that DWR put out on the water bank, and there may be a concern regarding the adequacy of the EIR proposed for a conjunctive use program. They believed that the environmental issues could be addressed and mitigated by establishing "trigger points," for example.
- 3) They strongly believed that an in-lieu program would be the best approach, and is likely the only way a CALFED conjunctive use program will work.
- 4) Glen and Dan suggested other districts to contact regarding conjunctive use:
 - a. Richvale
 - b. Provident, Doug Davis
 - c. M&T Ranch
 - d. Anderson Cottonwood, Dee Swearingen
 - e. RD 108, Lou Hince
- 5) They estimated that 2 million acre-feet of groundwater are used per year in the Sacramento Valley, and that up to 500,000 acre-feet of water may be available for a conjunctive use program, although they cautioned that it would likely take many years of operation to build to 500,000 acre-feet per year. They also cautioned that a conjunctive use program may reduce flows to the river system, so it would be imperative to control pumping, especially at depth.
- 6) They indicated that infrastructure likely to be necessary would include new wells, a recharge project, especially to assuage concerns about depleting the aquifer. They also discussed

the possibility of augmenting recharge through a series of small dams along selected drainages between Chico to Thermalito to direct water down stream channels.

7) Glen and Dan had the following suggestions for helping facilitate a CALFED conjunctive use program:

- a. Protect the groundwater resource by helping to implement groundwater management plans or develop County ordinances
- b. Develop a pre-mitigation plan to identify and mitigate third-party and environmental impacts
- c. Provide adequate compensation for impacts
- d. Perform adequate studies to ensure public that the data are reliable
- e. Ensure that participating wells will be metered to accurately measure water use
- f. Provide a governmental structure similar to Tehema County where someone is appointed to protect public interests
- g. Encourage Counties to support AB 3030 groundwater management planning