

CONTACT MEMO

Contact: Linda Cole and Lynn Barris, farmers (rice and orchard, respectively) and activists
Date: September 26, 1996
Setting: Meeting in Chico

Linda and Lynn provided their perspectives on conjunctive use issues. The following is a summary of our conversation.

1. Stanford University - published paper on January 12 regarding groundwater not being a reliable source of new water.
2. Conjunctive use is possible but it will rape the area.
 - A. No way to accomplish conjunctive use without depleting resource for growth.
 - B. They (the establishment) will exceed the margin of safety.
 - C. State has demonstrated that they are unable to live up to assurances for this area.
3. Conjunctive use will stimulate growth in areas that cannot support it.
 - A. Excessive cutbacks.
 - B. Monterey Agreement changed the rules.
 - C. Problems in Delta are not Sacramento Valley's problems.
 - D. Windfall gain for some from water transfer projects.
4. Anyone who develops on the come should do so at their own risk (Los Angeles, for example). CALFED could not afford true value of water.
5. Conjunctive use is like deficit spending because its taken out in summer when we need it and replaced in winter.
6. Subsidence isa prime concern.
7. Environment and downstream well users will be impacted.
 - A. Protect domestic pumpers.
 - B. Compensate for changes in well efficiencies
8. Impossible to have an objective entity that everyone will trust.
9. Only the powerful & influential people in Butte County are selling water.
10. Why put Sac Valley system at risk to help unsustainable ag south of Delta.
11. Not all of the problems associated with conjunctive use have showed up yet.

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Recommendations

1. Conjunctive use is a cop-out; there are better ways to provide water.
 - a) Off-stream storage.
 - b) Areas developed beyond their sustainable useage should be retired.
 - c) Let each community solve their own problems.
2. Not okay for one area to impose directly on another area.
3. Model Water Transfer Act.
 - a) Will not stop pumping for environmental concerns
 - b) Must go to arbitrator if there are complaints.
4. Conjunctive use has potential to solve water distribution problems *only within* a water basin.
7. Standby fee should be paid, even in years when conjunctive use is not operated.
8. Butte County is poor county so they are ripe for taking; level of compensation would have to be huge -- enough money for people to take risks.
 - a) Need to prepare a needs assessment for Butte County.