

CONTACT MEMO

Contact: Rich Golb, Northern California Water Association
Date: September 27, 1996
Setting: Lunch Meeting in Sacramento

Rich Golb provided his perspective on conjunctive use issues. The following is a summary of our conversation.

1. Current Perspective on CALFED
 - A. There is a feeling out there is that CALFED's purpose is to solve environmental problems so water can be sent to Southern California; lots of people are fundamentally opposed to what CALFED is doing and that feeling is increasing.
 - B. Is CALFED solving Bay Delta problem versus California's water problems?
 - C. \$4-12 billion could build lots of reservoirs
 - D. NCWA supports CALFED, but these feelings of concern are increasing.
 - E. It appears that only one alternative is being considered: "the canal"
 - F. Blueprint for solving water problems has been the SWP & CVP: more water for southern California
 - G. If the plan really is to move water south, CALFED should first solve problems in the Sacramento Valley
2. Obstacles
 - A. Local politics
 - B. Financing
 - C. Time -- need to allow sufficient time for people to get comfortable with concept)
 - D. Education -- need to explain benefits to the region.
3. NCWA's responsibility is upstream, not the Delta; NCWA is on record as being supportive of water transfers.
4. Many would ask why should we implement conjunctive use to solve someone else's problem.
5. The statement that "water is a public resource" would create chaos and lawsuits.
6. Proposal for conjunctive use should be modest and cannot be misunderstood.
7. Districts that have potential to implement a CLAFED conjunctive use program:
 1. GCID
 2. Western Canal
 3. Yuba County Water Agency

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4. Sutter extension
5. Briggs W. Gridley
6. Richvale Water District

Recommendations

1. Develop a comprehensive program that provides direct and immediate benefits.
2. Construct a limited, local-based program: develop a business plan.
3. Provide incentives to landowners and water districts (financing); if CALFED fix doesn't help the Sacramento Valley, there will be little buy in.
4. Provide lots of education.
5. A conjunctive use program not properly structured will provide fuel to the fire.
6. It may be determined that the time and effort required is too great to implement a viable conjunctive use program.
7. Might be better off building off-stream storage and tiering(?) in conjunctive use program to that storage.

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