

## CONTACT MEMO

Contact: Homer Lundberg, rice farmer, Director of Western Canal Water District  
Date: September 27, 1996  
Setting: Meeting in Sacramento

Homer Lundberg and I discussed various aspects of conjunctive use in the Sacramento Valley. The following is a summary of our conversation.

1. Homer purchased ground in Nelson in 1960; utilized groundwater wells. Homer worked to increase rice acreage.
  - A. Groundwater levels were lowered; bowels had to be lowered in 1960s.
  - B. 80% of surface water has to be lifted once; 20% lifted twice. Surface water reduced water costs by half.
  - C. Western Canal surface water is 1/4 cost of groundwater currently.
2. There is not enough water in the aquifer to grow rice entirely on groundwater.
3. Butte Basin could have a very good drought-year water supply (holdover water).
4. It would be stupid to destroy the water resource since 99.9% of income relies on an abundant, economical, and reliable water source.
5. If sale of water solidifies surface water rights, it makes it worthwhile to have a conjunctive use program.
6. Water bank paid \$125 in 1991; \$50 in 1992; and \$50 in 1994.
7. Obstacles
  - A. Generally, people don't want to see groundwater used to increase total export water out of area.
    1. Educational process may help overcome this feeling.
  - B. Assure area of origin rights are never taken away.
8. The key is to provide a drought-relief program, not a year-in, year-out, conjunctive use program, and to provide mitigation for third party impacts.
9. Stronger endorsement of area of origin rights would help promote conjunctive use; need to overcome the Owens Valley paranoia.
10. Richvale (Gene Harris), Biggs W. Gridley & Oroville Wyndot may be likely participants in a CALFED conjunctive use program.
11. CALFED should consider making a presentation to the Butte Basin Water Users Association.

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