

CONTACT MEMO

Date: January 7, 1997
Contact: Allan Short, Modesto Irrigation District
Setting: Lunch Meeting in Sacramento

Allan and I discussed conjunctive use issues in the San Joaquin Valley. The following is a summary of our conversation:

- 1) Modesto Irrigation District (MID) has an existing conjunctive use program. Flood irrigation provides 70 percent of groundwater recharge. Turlock Irrigation District and South San Joaquin are both considering similar projects, including a surface water treatment plants such as the one built by MID and funded by revenue bonds.
- 2) MID has concerns about a CALFED conjunctive use program:
 - a. Local agencies know best how to operate local programs
 - b. Conjunctive use might become a component of a mandatory program
 - c. MID is already recharging 15 feet per year
- 3) Westside of MID and westside farming areas may be suitable for groundwater banking; however, issues such as individual farmers pumping water to sell need to be addressed.
- 4) MID has rights on the Tuolumne to divert 250,000 to 300,000 acre-feet per year.
- 5) MID has 30 to 40 wells throughout the service area; very high water table; district pumps 20,000 acre-feet per year to lower water table.
- 6) Water shortages are reflected in carryover water in Don Pedro at the beginning of irrigation season.
- 7) CALFED could help water supply reliability by facilitating institutional barriers for projects, such as tying the Tuolumne and Stanislaus systems together; the resulting discharge to the Stanislaus would enable New Melones to fill more effectively by diverting less.
- 8) MID would be interested in participating in a conjunctive use workshop.