

CONTACT MEMO

Date: March 14, 1997
Contact: Steve Macaulay, Terry Erlewine, State Water Contractors
Setting: Meeting at SWC office

I met with Steve Macaulay and Terry Erlewine with the State Water Contractors to discuss conjunctive use issues. The following is a summary of our meeting.

- 1) Steve and Terry expressed concerns about the amount of "real" water vs. paper water coming out of conjunctive use programs. Is water being pulled out of storage and what are the timing considerations? They suggested I review the DWR Nov. 1993 report on water transfers, which discusses new water vs. paper water issues.
- 2) Sacramento Valley has a high groundwater table and many agricultural drains crossing the valley. Therefore, there is a significant hydrologic connection between surface water and groundwater that would make it difficult to quantify the amount of new water resulting from conjunctive use operations.
- 3) There are areas, such as San Joaquin County, Western Yolo County, Southern Sacramento County, and Southern Yuba County that are more likely to be amenable to conjunctive use projects because there is not as direct a connection between surface water and groundwater.
- 4) The American Basin project has potential because of the plan to bring in surface water during wet years.
- 5) Monitoring should be a significant component of any conjunctive use program
- 6) Pumping from a confined aquifer may have impacts in forebay (recharge) areas; this potential should be addressed.
- 7) Small scale pilot programs are recommended, as opposed to extensive studies, to determine the feasibility, effectiveness, and potential impacts of conjunctive use programs.
- 8) Conjunctive use can provide benefits in that the programs may allow the diversion of water that is more "fish-friendly."
- 9) CALFED can help implement conjunctive use programs by helping to educate people on the real issues and by identifying potential project areas.