

Ken Ott

## Land Retirement for Water Quality Purposes - Acreage Identification Criteria

TO: Ron Ott  
FROM: Greg Young  
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This memo serves to identify a defensible acreage value for use in discussing land retirement for water quality benefits. The focus is on lands within the Grasslands Subarea on the westside of the San Joaquin Valley. The values discussed should be considered **in addition to any current levels of retirement and in addition to lands targeted under federal programs.**

- 40,000 acres is given as the maximum acreage to possibly be retired for San Joaquin River water quality purposes. (*source: CALFED policy statement regarding land retirement*)
- 40,000 acres is based upon numbers presented in *A Management Plan for Agricultural Subsurface Drainage and Related Problems on the Westside San Joaquin Valley*, September 1990 (otherwise known as the *Rainbow Report*).
  - Table 15 (p. 93) = 37,400 acres (lands with selenium concentrations in the shallow groundwater > 200 ppb)
  - Table 16 (p. 94) = 90,000 acres (lands with selenium concentrations in the shallow groundwater > 50 ppb)

### Points to Note:

- If criteria of > 200 ppb is used, retirement would focus on a narrow geographic area and could result in a few districts to be completely retired.
- If criteria of 40% to 50% of lands > 50 ppb is used, retirement would be spread over a larger geographic area, possibly reducing concentrated impacts.