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To: Judy Heath  
From: Sarah Holmgren  
Subject: Response to Richard Denton (Contra Costa Water District) Letter dated August 15, 1997 to Carol Howe

Fax No: 653-5699  
Reference:  
No. of Pages: 2  
(including cover)

*note to file -  
this was a  
mistake  
I  
should  
be  
September*

Per your request, I have reviewed information on TDS and chloride regarding the CCWD. In the two previous draft responses to Mr. Denton (~~November 25, 1997~~ <sup>September</sup> and revised December 8, 1997) the chloride values identified in the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary, May 1995, State Water Resources Control Board, 95-IWR and TDS values recommended by the CALFED Water Quality Program Parameter Assessment Team (see attached sheet for your reference) were cited as the CALFED water quality targets for TDS and chloride

These targets for TDS and chloride are the SAME water quality values that Mr. Denton refers to in his letter of August 15, 1997. In his letter Mr. Denton recommends the use of 150 mg/l for chloride and a TDS target of 220 mg/l (long term average) and 440 mg/l (monthly average). The two previous draft responses to Mr. Denton identify these same values for TDS and chloride as the CALFED water quality targets, therefore, there is no apparent inconsistency between the CALFED water quality targets and the comments made by Mr. Denton.

On January 16, 1998 I spoke with Dr. K.T. Shum (CCWD) via telephone to verify that the CALFED water quality targets for TDS and chloride were consistent with CCWD's water quality needs/requirements. As you know, Dr. Shum participates on the CALFED Water Quality Parameter Assessment Team and helped develop the TDS water quality targets for CALFED. Dr. Shum indicated that the CALFED water quality targets were consistent with CCWD's needs. Therefore, there is no need to revise the draft response to Mr. Denton provided to you on December 8, 1997.

Please let me know if you have any questions.  
Thanks!

*If you do not receive all pages, or if there are any problems with this transmission, please call 916 924 8844.*

Environmental Target Levels for CALFED Urban Water Quality Parameters of Concern

Parameter of Concern	Geographic Location	Water Quality Target Levels	Comments
Salinity (TDS)	Delta; Water Supply Intakes	10-yr average: < 220 mg/L Monthly avg.: < 440 mg/L  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced peaks in TDS levels are necessary to limit salinity-related impacts on water supply demand, local resource programs, and economic impacts.</li> </ul>	<p>Target levels for TDS would allow compliance with the TDS objectives contained in Article 19 of the SWP Water Service Contract.</p> <p>The average TDS levels in SWP supplies over the last ten years have consistently exceeded the 220 mg/L (10-year average) SWP objective. The ten year averaging period for the 220 mg/L objective is too long to be sufficiently protective of source water quality. MWD staff are currently exploring the development of appropriate alternative TDS objectives for shorter time frames (i.e., 1-year and 6-month averages) and will forward that information to CALFED when available.</p> <p>The SWP TDS objective of 440 mg/L (monthly average) is a problem for water resource management programs, especially in the months of April through September, and there is a real need to reduce peaks in TDS in SWP supplies.</p> <p>Consistently low TDS levels are needed to minimize the following salinity-related impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased demand for Delta water supplies when such water is used to blend with other higher salinity water sources.</li> <li>• Adverse impacts on water recycling and groundwater replenishment programs, which depend on Delta water supplies to meet local resource program salinity objectives. Failure to develop local resource programs may result in increased demand on Delta exports.</li> <li>• Economic impacts on industrial, residential and agricultural water users.</li> </ul> <p>Note: Salinity is a resource management issue for urban water suppliers; as a result, use of the secondary MCL for TDS of 500 mg/L as a target level is <u>not</u> appropriate and would allow degradation of source water quality.</p>

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