



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825-1898

IN REPLY
REFER TO:

MP-3400
WTR-1.10

Mr. Thomas J. Graff, Esq.
Senior Attorney
Environmental Defense Fund
Rockridge Market Hall
5655 College Avenue
Oakland CA 94618

Subject: Central Valley Project Deliveries to Westlands Water District

Dear Mr. Graff:

Thank you for your letter requesting additional information on Central Valley Project (CVP) deliveries to the Westlands Water District (Westlands). You note in your letter that Westlands actual water deliveries appear to be far in excess of their contractual entitlement, which is 1,150,000 acre-feet. Your letter asks whether or not Westlands' reported CVP deliveries are consistent with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) records. In addition to your letter, Westlands' "Issue Update" handed out at the November 14, 1997, Bay-Delta Advisory Committee meeting, provided a detailed account of its water deliveries for the 10-year period that includes contract years 1987-88 through 1996-97.¹

Reclamation has reviewed Westlands' CVP water delivery information, and compared it with Reclamation's financial delivery records which are based on fiscal years.² Considering that some differences in deliveries are expected due to the difference in years, Reclamation's financial records support Westlands' CVP water delivery data.

Based on Reclamation's official contractor accounting records, Reclamation delivered approximately 8.5 million acre-feet of CVP water to Westlands for the 10-year period from FY 1987 through FY 1996. Similarly, Westlands reports CVP water deliveries (including critical needs and hardship water) of approximately 8 million acre-feet, plus approximately 650,000 acre-feet of CVP rescheduled and interim water for a total of about 8.65 million acre-feet. The

¹ A contract year is March 1 through February 28.

² A fiscal year is October 1 through September 30.

difference of about 150,000 acre-feet is within the range of error expected when comparing contract year deliveries to fiscal year deliveries over the 10-year period.

In addition to the above analysis, Reclamation has internal accounting controls for contractor water deliveries that automatically flag for correction any instances where contractors over-schedule their allocated contract water supply; this prevents contractors from receiving water in excess of their contractual entitlement. Westlands also has its financial statements audited annually, and in that process its auditors confirm water revenues with Reclamation records, providing an assurance that such records are reconcilable between Reclamation and Westlands.

Reclamation is pleased to be able to provide you with this analysis of CVP deliveries to the Westlands Water District. We hope this letter answers your questions about Westlands water deliveries. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact Mr. James Bjornsen of my staff at (916) 978-5363 (TDD 978-5608).

Sincerely,



Roger K. Patterson
Regional Director

cc: Mr. David Orth
Westlands Water District
PO Box 6056
Fresno CA 93703-6056