

## Conservation

I was completely turned off by the tenor of the message received at the February 11, 1999 workshop in Fountain Valley.

It came across as quite a punitive approach to ensure those "volunteers" that originally became a signatory member of the MOU regarding Urban Water Conservation did in fact implement the conservation standards within the document.

In August 1991, Hi-Desert Water District (HDWD) by Board action, became one of those urban agencies that said, we agree in good faith to implement a program of water conservation. And as a signatory and quite frankly just as a water supplier that is aware of the State's water problems, HDWD has a very aggressive conservation program.

As General Manager, I don't believe we need "big brother" looking over our shoulders requiring we demonstrate compliance with the MOU. As signatory we stated we would comply. Another bureaucracy should not need to be formed at great cost to see that compliance is made. I am probably sounding naive but when an agency's signs to agree to something that should be it. Because some agencies do not honor its commitments should not be a reason for creating a whole new bureaucracy. That is what I heard was being proposed.

The pre-workshop information states that the CUWA/EWC proposal "does not make membership in the CUWCC automatic, but rather leaves this decision with each urban water supplier subject to certification." Bunk. Those urban water suppliers did not have to sign on to the MOUs either but that was in 1991. Now in 1999 that will more than likely change the proposal if the supplier is a specific size and in the CALFED solution area, would be required to demonstrate compliance with the MOU. It is almost guaranteed that urban water suppliers will all be required to be a member of CUWCC in the future. How else will this new regulatory program be funded?

Just reviewing the words used in the MOU certification framework reflect a punitive approach for compliance to the Urban MOU that some water suppliers volunteered to comply with.

HDWD has one of the more aggressive conservation programs in the State and without question has a model and tough landscape ordinance. We are doing our part to meet the obligation the Board of Directors committed to in August 1991 when it became a signatory. We don't need another regulatory bureaucracy to stand over us to ensure compliance. That compliance was committed to eight years ago.



**Important!  
Public Comment Enclosed**

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814



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Sacramento, CA 95814**