GLENN COUNTY PLANNING DIVISION

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Willows, California 95988
Vince T. Minto, Administrator

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September 10, 2003

Ms. Sammie Cervantes
Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way, MP-140
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Ms. Cervantes:

RE: Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report
Environmental Water Account

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the Environmental Water Account.

Glenn County is primarily concerned about the Regional and Agricultural Economics as discussed in Chapter 11 and Environmental Consequences/Environmental Impacts as discussed in Chapter 19. The people in Glenn County are poor (Page 11-4, Table 11-2) and have a high unemployment rate (Page 19-6, Table 19-5).

The Per Capita income in Glenn County is $18,015 compared to that in Placer County of $34,972. The unemployment rate is 19.9%, highest in the region.

Page 11-37 states that "Idling 16,750 rice acres in Glenn County would result in a $22.3 million total decrease in value of output, a $9.8 million decrease in value added, a $5.4 million decrease in wages and salaries, and a loss of 385 jobs."

This type of impact, even if fewer acres are idled due to water transfers, is totally unacceptable to the County. There should be a mitigation measures to compensate with jobs for displaced workers so that the minimal local economy the County can sustain will not be totally ruined.

Page 11-33 discounts the impact on water transfers on tenant farmers. This adverse impact will be much greater than that described in the document. It is not expected that tenants would share in water transfer revenue and there are a large number of tenant farmers.

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Page 11-38 states that "Farmers would likely spend a percentage of the increased net revenue received from a water transfer in their local economy." The County disagrees with this statement. The County already suffers from a great deal of money spent outside the County. Workers would spend the money in Glenn County if they had jobs.

Page 11-39 explains some of the problems with idled land. These are tremendous problems to Glenn County and the local economy here. No mitigation measures are proposed. The water transfer program should include payments to the County so that job training can be provided for displaced workers. The water transfer program should also include loan funds that can be used to start up replacement businesses.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft EIS/EIR.

Yours truly,

Christy Leighton

Christy Leighton, AICP
Principal Planner