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San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

1350 SOUTH "E" STREET - P. O. BOX 5906 - SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA 92412-5906 -(909) 387-9200
FAX (909) 387-9247

August 19, 1999

CALFED Hearing, August 19, 1999 San Bernardino California
6:00 p.m. at the San Bernardino City Hall Council Chambers

AUG 19 1999

The San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District is independent from and not a member of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWDSC). The District spans about 328 square miles which has a population of about 600,000. There were four elections proposing to annex this area into MWDSC, all of which were soundly defeated. The San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District does not receive any water from Metropolitan. MWDSC does not represent nor speak for the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District.

The San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District's supplemental water is available through a contract, signed in 1960 with the State of California, Department of Water Resources. In those days it was referred to as the Feather River Project, and now is referred to as the State Water Project. Based upon a Statewide election and certain commitments made by the State, the District along with agencies from 29 other areas of the State agreed to pay for and the State committed to provide a dry year yield from the State Water Project of 4.2 million acre feet of water. For its share of the State Water Project the residents of the San Bernardino Valley agreed to pay over $1 billion, payable through the year 2035. Local distribution systems in excess of $250 million will be constructed in the near future. In fact, the ground breaking ceremony for the East Branch Extension of the State Water Project, which will deliver water to the far eastern portion of the District and thence on to the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency, will be next Monday, August 23, 1999 at 9:00 a.m. in Yucaipa.

During the 1960's several thousand entities and water agencies from San Bernardino to Newport Beach were involved in a series of lawsuits over who should get how much of the native water available in the Santa Ana River watershed. The final result divided the watershed into three areas, the area below Prado Dam, the area between Prado Dam and San Bernardino, and the area between San Bernardino and the mouth of the Santa Ana River as it enters the San Bernardino Valley. In order that the water from the upper area can be used again in the middle area and then once again in the lower area, it is necessary that very high quality (low in salt content 220 ppm) be imported into the San Bernardino Valley. The San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District's contract for State Water Project Water became the cornerstone to meeting the quality and quantity guarantees to the downstream Riverside County and Orange County interests along the Santa Ana River. The contract provides for SWP water to be less than 220 ppm in salts and an annual quantity of water available to SBVMWD of 102,600 acre feet.

The District first received water from the State Water Project in 1972.

Directors and Officers

EDWARD B. KILLGORE Division I | GEORGE A. AGUILAR Division II | PAT MILLIGAN Division III | MARK BULOT Division IV | STEVE COPELAN Division V | G. LOUIS FLETCHER General Manager and Chief Engineer

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As we look to the future, we see a need for more of the water which the District contracted for in 1960. We see a need for a better quality water from the Delta to meet drinking water requirements as well as to limit the salt content of the water so that the water can be used three times before it is ultimately treated and disposed of after use by people in Orange County.

This is not something new. It is not a new demand for water from Northern California. It is simply a need for what the State promised some 39 years ago. The people of the San Bernardino Valley have paid for, but have not had to use their full measure of the State Water Project water. But as sure has there have been significant droughts in the past, there will also be prolonged droughts in the future. We believe that it is the State and Federal role and responsibility to see to it that the guarantees made to its citizens are kept. Our ratepayers and taxpayers have paid for it and will continue to pay for it. The State said agreed when we needed it we could get it. The CalFed process must not take it away from the millions of people that reside in the Santa Ana River Watershed and count on this guarantee.

We are asked to comment on documents over 4,000 pages. Our initial review concludes that it does not re-affirm the water quality and quantity commitments made 39 years ago. The options do not appear to be fully fleshed out so that it may not be possible to quantify the effects on the Santa Ana River Watershed of the options. Much more is needed before we launch into a program of this magnitude. CalFed must not ignore the needs of people. CalFed must not take away what the people have paid for. CalFed must develop alternatives that meet people's needs as well as those of the environment. So far, it looks to us like CalFed has missed the target. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We will be submitting a more thorough and technical review by mail. Thank you for your consideration.

copy of written comments from speaker 2T06
NC for testimony
copy of 1415

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