

Opening Statement for Water Transfer Workshop

May 4, 2000

Good Morning. Thank you for attending today's public workshop regarding water transfers. I am Art Baggett, Chairman of the State Water Resources Control Board. With me are Board members (introduce the Board members present). In addition we will be assisted today by the following staff, (executive staff, if present), Jerry Johns Assistant Chief of the Division of Water Rights and Dana Differding of our Office of the Chief Council.

Today's workshop was noticed on March 17, 2000. The purpose of the workshop is to get public comment and suggestions to assist the SWRCB in updating the Guide to Water Transfers that staff distributed in July 1999. This document was discussed in the workshop notice and has been available in both hard copy and via the Internet for over 9 months. Most of you have had the opportunity to review this document. The issues addressed today may include: (1) the format of the Guide (2) the analysis of the issues and topics discussed in the Guide (3) alternative approaches to those presented in the Guide (4) methods to reduce the time required to rule on proposed transfers and (5) other suggestions to improve the usefulness of the Guide. In addition, participants may address any other aspect of the water transfer process, including proposals for the modification of statutorily imposed water transfer approval criteria.

Today's workshop will be informal. There is no court reporter. The Board and staff may ask questions to make sure we understand your comments. There will be no cross-examination by the other parties present. We are looking for your thoughts on how we can improve the understanding of the SWRCB's process related to the approval of Water Transfers.

This is not the place to bring up concerns regarding specific transfers currently before the SWRCB. We are looking for general comments related

water transfers. The time and place to address the Board on specific water transfers is during the proceedings noticed for that purpose.

We requested parties to prepare written statements and to summarize them orally today. We have had an opportunity to review those statements that were provided by the April 27, 1999 date requested in the workshop notice. If you were not able to make that submittal date we encourage you to present your comments and provide copies of your written statements to the Board and the other interested parties present. If a party does not have enough copies of their written presentation for all those who want it today we request you make additional copies available to those who ask for them. To facilitate the exchange of comments the SWRCB is willing to post them on our Internet web site if the parties will provide their comments to us electronically. Please e-mail them to Mr. Johns at jjohns@waterrights.swrcb.ca.gov. We will post them on our water rights web site under general information, near the location of the Guide to Water Transfers. We should have them posted in a few days and will keep them up for about two months for those who would like to see the presentations of others. The water rights web address is www.waterrights.ca.gov.

If you would like to address the Board today please fill out a blue speaker card available at the side table. Turn the card into staff at the front table. Based on the number of speakers here today we ask that you keep your oral comments to 10 minutes per party. For those who have joint presentations please indicate the number of parties that are represented and keep the total time within these guidelines. Therefore, if 4 parties are part of the group, keep the total time to 40 minutes or less.

We will take oral presentations in the following order. First will be any representatives from the State or federal legislature that wish to speak. Next a representative from CALFED, Greg Young, will summarize their efforts related to water transfers. This will be followed by presentations from parties who provided comments in advance of the workshop if they are present today. We received advanced comments from the following:

Cliff Hurley	A person interested in the IID transfer
Fred Etheridge	East Bay Municipal Utility District
Paul Barkiewicz	Barkiewicz, Kronick and Shanahan
Brenda Jahns Southwick	California Farm Bureau

Robert Donlan
John Herrick
Michael George
Antonio Rossmann
John Coburn

Ellison and Schneider
South Delta Water Agency
Western Water Company
Imperial County (will not be present)
State Water Contractors

The other parties who wish to address the Board will be taken in the order that their blue speaker cards are received. If you have specific time constraints please indicate them on the blue speaker cards and make them known to staff. We will make every effort to accommodate specific requests where we can.