

I'm going to discuss a subject that has received little notice. As a result of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act our groundwater resources have entered into the realm of the Public Trust and Environmental Justice. Groundwater is everyone's concern now.

Whether we are talking about the implementation of the change in point of diversion or the whole WaterFix project there will be a an unmitigated and a permanent unmitigable consequence of the dewatering actions taking place during the construction process. It's much more than drying up or damaging individual domestic water wells. The dewatering process is going to cause permanent damage to groundwater quality which is going to damage present and future users and uses of this resource.

For the hundreds of dewatering wells that will have to be bored the only feasible method from the cost and speed standpoint will be rotary well drills, not the more costly driven case style well drilling method that is more protective of ground water quality. The latter method isolates the individual water bearing strata from each other, the rotary well boring method does not. The important point to understand is that every water bearing strata is not of equal quality. Some strata have polluted or poor quality water and some have high quality water and other strata with gradations between the two. The rotary boring method will cause a permanent mixing of these water bearing strata and degrade our better and best quality water. There will be multiple perforations of same water bearing strata because the dewatering wells will not be very far apart. The best way I can describe this situation is a gang rape of our ground water resources.

What will be the power source for the dewatering pumps? Most likely diesel. Whatever the fuel source and means of delivery, there will be a massive amount of air pollution that will not only effect the agricultural areas. Our prevailing wind patterns will blow that pollution into our urban centers as well. I would equate this to the barbarians burning down the village after the rape orgy.

How will the dewatering wells be abandoned? If they are rock packed rotary wells they really can't be cement filled to isolate the different water bearing strata. The water will still move through the rock packing on the outside of the casing. Even in a good driven well the casing would need to be cement filled because the casing would deteriorate and leak water between the strata at some point in the future. The California Groundwater Association in conjunction with all affected landowners should have a direct voice in all aspects of the dewatering procedures and their implementation. That would include but is not limited to drilling methods, materials to be used, locations, depths, diameters, well logging, and abandonment procedures. DWR and the water contractors should be legally and financially responsible for any present or future effects on existing wells, existing aquifers, environmental contamination and subsidence they cause.

So how do I close this? It appears that the barbarians intend a campaign to rape and burn and poison the wells and move on and let the survivors deal with what's left.

I would urge the Board to not approve the change in point of diversion petition.

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