



Kathy Mrowka, who heads the enforcement division of the State Water Board in Sacramento, said Wednesday afternoon that she was aware that George was meeting with Tracy officials that day, but she had not yet received a report from him.

She said that because of the many water-conservation issues and programs before the state water board and agency, she could not predict when the challenge would be decided.

Meanwhile, large blocks of farmland in the West Side Irrigation District lie fallow for lack of water, according to WSID General Manager Dave Kaiser.

He said the State Water Board has informed the district for the second year that it is being completely barred from normal pumping from the river, because district water rights were granted after 1914, the cutoff date for senior water rights.

Kaiser said that since the state cutoff, WSID can only distribute water collected in district drainage ditches and the intake canal from Old River. The only relief some growers have consists of water pumped from their individual wells.

“Farmers in our district are facing serious problems because of the shortage of irrigation water,” he said. “The land lying fallow is stark evidence of that.”