

## **POLICY STATEMENT OF JON PICCIUOLO**

**President, Board of Directors of the  
Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District**

My name is Jon Picciuolo and I serve as President of the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District.

Our District encompasses most of the lands located within the Santa Ynez River watershed downstream of Cachuma Reservoir. This includes Improvement District No. 1 and the Cities of Solvang, Buellton and Lompoc, along with approximately 27,000 acres devoted to irrigated agriculture within the Santa Ynez and Lompoc Valleys. A primary purpose of the District since its formation in 1939 has been to protect the water rights of our landowners and residents.

As you are aware, the District is the entity, which in accordance with your Board's orders, directs the Bureau of Reclamation as to when and how much water to release from the Above Narrows and Below Narrows Accounts for the benefit of the downstream water rights holders.

We are engaged in these proceedings principally to support the Settlement Agreement entered into among all the affected parties to resolve the issues of this hearing related to whether operation of the Cachuma Project injures downstream water right holders.

We understand that your Board encourages parties to resolve their differences through agreement. We took that advice seriously. As will be reported by others during these proceedings in more detail, the efforts to reach a global settlement of all parties of all downstream issues was a very significant effort, involving years of work by the policy makers, staffs and consultants of the affected parties. It is an historic agreement—it being the first time in many decades that ALL parties are in agreement on Cachuma Project operations required to protect downstream water rights.

Importantly, the Settlement Agreement also commits the parties to mutually support the NMFS Biological Opinion and the Fish Management Plan to address the public trust resource issues.

We encourage you to make the few changes to your existing orders necessary to implement the Settlement Agreement.

We look forward to participating in these proceedings. Thank you.