

July 28, 1999

UNIFIED POSITION OF
STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT, THE CITY OF STOCKTON,
SOUTH DELTA WATER AGENCY, CENTRAL DELTA WATER AGENCY
AND SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY ON
RESOLVING WATER MANAGEMENT CONCERNS FOR THE
LOWER SAN JOAQUIN RIVER AND SOUTH DELTA REGION

The following position points are those that the parties to this document support together. Individual agencies may have additional goals and objectives for the San Joaquin River and South Delta Region that may be pursued independently.

1. There must be a comprehensive plan to resolve San Joaquin River water quality problems. The highest priority shall be to develop and implement appropriate actions to improve and restore the San Joaquin River by reducing salinity levels and increasing San Joaquin River dissolved oxygen concentrations.
2. The comprehensive plan must be based upon the premise that all adverse impacts caused by the State Water Project and Central Valley Project to the South Delta and San Joaquin River must be fully mitigated consistent with California law.
3. The comprehensive plan must also be based on adherence to California area of origin and watershed protection laws.
4. The comprehensive plan must involve the following:
 - a. As an immediate interim measure, temporarily store high saline waters from the CVP contract service areas along the west side of the San Joaquin Valley that directly and indirectly add to the San Joaquin River salinity, so that releases can be made during periods of high flow. Funding for physical improvements needed to accomplish such temporary storage and release should be supported.
 - b. Funding and completion of the Regional Water Quality Control Board – Central Valley Region Basin Plan Amendment for Salinity and Boron on the San Joaquin River to establish water quality objectives upstream of Vernalis including areas upstream of the Merced River by March of 2000. Such standards must provide protection for all identified beneficial uses, and it is contemplated that such standards to meet the beneficial uses shall not be less restrictive than those established at Vernalis.

- c. Funding and completion of a TMDL process for dissolved oxygen in the San Joaquin River. The burden for the impacts from operation of the CVP by the United States Bureau of Reclamation and operation of the Stockton Deepwater Ship Channel should not be shifted to other water users.
- d. To the extent necessary to maximize the amount of water from New Melones to meet the needs within its protected areas and watersheds of origin, including the needs of the New Melones CVP contractors, the USBR shall secure and/or provide sufficient water so as to meet the 1995 Water Quality Plan Objectives from sources other than New Melones Reservoir, through means including, but not limited to:
 - i. Purchases of water that would have been consumptively used or irretrievably lost to beneficial use.
 - ii. Development of increased yield through increased surface or underground storage.
 - iii. Land Retirement from willing sellers with water retained specifically for purposes of San Joaquin River water quality enhancement. Special emphasis should be given to retirement of those lands which most directly and indirectly add to the salinity of the San Joaquin River.
 - iv. Releases of water from the Delta Mendota Canal and/or San Luis Reservoir.
5. The USBR shall maintain the current Water Quality Objectives for Agricultural Beneficial uses at Vernalis (Salinity Objective) of *.7 mmhos/cm* (April-August) and *1.0 mmhos/cm* (September-March).
6. The USBR operations of the New Melones Reservoir shall at all times comply with the terms of the 1987 Fish and Game Agreement, so that if at any time the Vernalis Salinity Objective is not met or projected to be met, and allocation to New Melones CVP contractors are not made or projected to be made, the USBR shall adjust operations so as not to release more than 98,300 acre feet per year for fishery purposes from New Melones Reservoir. Projections shall be based on the driest hydrology of record including the 1987-1992 period.
7. The USBR shall take any and all reasonable actions that decrease high salinity drainage, runoff and subsurface accretions to the San Joaquin River from the CVP contractor service areas. Such actions should include but not limited to pursuit of construction of an out of valley drain which after concentration discharges the drainage waters into the Pacific Ocean at a point sufficiently off-shore to easily assimilate the drainage water into the ocean waters. The parties hereto do not encourage consideration of a drainage route which discharges the drainage waters into San Francisco Bay, Monterey Bay or into the Sacramento/San Joaquin Bay-Delta Estuary system.

8. Expedite construction of the Middle River, Grantline Canal, Tracy Old River, and Head of Old River barriers. Operation of the barriers to be on an as-needed basis to (i) maintain adequate water levels, circulation, and quality in the South Delta channels, (ii) address the dissolved oxygen problem on the main stem of the San Joaquin River near the City of Stockton, and (iii) assist in the outmigration of salmon smolts and other fish species.
9. Implement a regular program of maintenance dredging of Delta channels to maintain designed flood flow capacities and preserve local navigation.