Response to Comment P2-73

Comment noted.

Response to Comment P2-74

Please refer to the Master Response on Other-Growth Inducement Analysis in Section 3 of this Final EIR/EIS.
Response to Comment P2-75
Please refer to the Master Response on Other—Desalination in SDWCA Service Area and Comments Calling for Increased Conservation in Section 3 of this Final EIR/EIS.

Response to Comment P2-76
Without a specific reference to a part of the Draft EIR/EIS, this comment is too general to respond to. Comment noted.

Response to Comment P2-77
Comment noted.
The period of time from 1989 to 1992, the entire state of California was forced to contend with a horrendous drought. We had a full Colorado River aqueduct at that time. So, we had all of our Colorado supplies -- during the drought, our supplies for northern California diminished to zero at one point from the state water project.

Our business community, our local residents were forced to contend with 30 percent cutbacks in water supply, which had a devastating impact on the economy.

At that point and since that time, the Chamber has vowed to work closely with the County Water Authority, its member agencies to make sure that we never put ourselves in this situation again.

The business community is committed to taking the steps necessary to ensure that we continue to have adequate supply -- sources of supply to sustain and grow the local economy. We have looked at and supported and endorsed a number of strategic investments in water supply, including water conservation, water reclamation, water transfers and an emergency water salination program for San Diego County.

I just want to highlight what has been accomplished with one of these tools. The water conservation program that has been implemented by the San Diego County Water Authority and its member agencies as what we view as a
cutting edge program.

It is addressing municipal uses, both residential
and industrial. There are commercial program and there are
agriculture programs that are the most sophisticated and the
most elaborate anywhere you will find in the world and
particularly in this region within which the Authority
operates with its retail agencies.

As a result of these efforts, there have been
numerous awards that have been given to the Water Authority
and its members for these efforts. But as a result of these
efforts, the demand for imported water today in San Diego
County is the same as it was in 1989 before the drought
began. Yet we have five hundred thousand more people in the
region.

So, to suggest that San Diego County is not doing
its job to develop alternative supplies and to conserve the
available resources, I think, is not an accurate nor fair
statement at this point in time.

For the business prospective, we are concerned
about the certainty and the reliability of the Colorado
River supply specific issues that you are looking at with
respect to the BIR/BIS. For the last two decades, Colorado
River aqueduct that serves southern California has run chalk
full.

And we are concerned that the ability to keep that
aqueduct full in the future is in jeopardy. It is in
jeopardy because states of Arizona and Nevada are now taking
their full allotments from the River. The availability of
surplus flows is in jeopardy on the river and California is
being required to live within its entitlement on the river.

So, why are we here today? We are here today to
consider a water transfer program that is the cornerstone
and a crucial element of California's efforts to reduce its
use of the Colorado River to 4.4 million acre-feet.

Since 1996, the Chamber has supported the Authority
and Imperial Irrigation District efforts to bring this
voluntary transfer program to a reality. We continue to
support the accomplishments of the water transfer program
and other QSA programs as a means of ensuring the certainty
and reliability of the Colorado River supply serving
southern California and its thriving economy that depends on
those supplies.

I'm a little puzzled by some of the comments I have
heard here this evening with respect to growth inducement.
The aqueduct that comes over from the Colorado River, Lake
Nevada to serve southern California has a finite capacity.
It is running full today. It is chalk full. You can't put
anymore water in it.

So, I'm not quite sure how this program is going to
cause additional growth in the region. From my prospective,
when you are analyzing the issue of growth inducement and
the EIR and the EIS and the environment impacts associated
with the project, it is important to recognize that this is
not an additional supply to support the growth in the region
and the economy. What it is is two hundred thousand
aer-feet of water that San Diego will realize and water
transfers that is merely a substitute for the supply that we
are already receiving and we have been receiving for
decades.

The chamber believes that the transfer is crucial
to our region's future. We urge IID, we urge the U. S.
Bureau of Reclamation, and the San Diego County Water
Authority to advance the proposed transfer to accomplish the
project purposes, needs and objectives spelled out in the
EIR and EIS. Specifically for IID, we support conservation
of water, transfer to San Diego under market based
transaction that provides economic stimulus to the Imperial
Valley.

The chamber will support any method, any
combination of methods of conservation to get the job done
as long as they enjoy the support of the effective
constituencies. For the Authority, we support acquisition
of an independent alternative long-term supply that provides
drought protection, increased reliability, diversifies the
available sources of supply and reduces the concurrent

HANSEN & DOWERSOCK (800) 660-1187 (714) 642-1198 Fax
dependence on a single source of imported water and
establishes a stabilized competitive price for a significant
portion of that supply.
And clearly for the Bureau, we support their
efforts to assist California in reaching 4.4 million
acre-feet. With that, thank you for the opportunity to
comment on the draft document and I appreciate your efforts.

MS. CARD: Thank you, Lawrence Anderson? James
BOND. Then William A. Watkins.

MR. BOND: Good evening and thank you very much for
the opportunity to address this group. I hadn't really
intended to speak this evening -- my name is James Bond --
but after hearing some of the testimony, I thought it would
be important to make some observations for the record.
I base these observations as I'm a member of the
State of California Colorado River Board. I sit on the San
Diego County Water Authority Board of Directors, on the San
Diego Water Board of Directors, and I'm the Deputy Mayor
of the city of Encinitas. I share that with you only so
that you know that is the basis upon which I draw these
observations that I would like to share with you.

And some of the concerns I have is that we truly
need to compare and contrast some of the comments and
statements that come before us tonight. The first one that
I would comment on is growth inducing.
Quite frankly, unless folks who like myself are
long in the tooth have the courtesy to die a lot younger and
we are willing to stop having children, we are going to have
growth. There's ample scientific evidence to say that we
are not going to shrink as a population. Growth is going to
occur. Growth is going to occur.

The second piece that concerns me is the
environmental -- I think we are talking about the ecosystems
and repair and maintenance of the ecosystem for the Salton
Sea. And I think we have got literally millions of years of
record to show that the Salton Sea in its most natural state
really ought to be a Salton sink. Not a Salton Sea, but a
Salton sink.

It was born from a mistake in 1905. This is all
information people know and it's been sustained with 1.3
million acre-feet of largely agriculture run-off, high in
salt, solids and minerals. It was mentioned earlier this
transfer is not really an increase of new water.

There is no new wet water headed towards the west
cost from the Imperial Valley. It is a redistribution of
water there. Indeed, we will be -- we will be drawing about
six to eight hundred thousand acre-feet less water here.
So, the growth inducing part of that just is not real.

The way to redistribute that water in a way that is
equitable and fair to all seems to be with a willing buyer,
willing seller. The west coast has some funds and the
ability to pay for the water. The Imperial Valley has the
ability to conserve and do whatever they can to release some
of that water to the west coast. So, we help both
economies.

The analogy of the Owens Valley comparison to the
Salton Sea I find troubling as well. Simply because the
Owens Valley was a huge fresh water, you know, origin
supply. This has not been one. This has been a --
alternately a see in a sink for millions of years.

We vacationed, as many of you have, in the Utah
area in the Great Salt Lake. In fact, I did that on a
motorcycle when I was a little younger. But my wife was on
the back and we went past the Salt Lake and it was regrets
with lots of wildlife.

Darwin, I believe, would be spinning in his grave
to think that we would not evolve and change as an ecosystem
as the environment changes. We almost have to forget all of
that which he tried to teach us if we are to say that this
must stop.

Because right now, I do think there's a flaw in our
analysis of what's environmentally sound in that we take a
snapshot in time and we say this is natural. Never mind
what happened millions of years before that. This right now
is natural and we want to preserve that natural state.
So, I would just say that, please, do consider compare and contrast some of these observations. I think that the transfer is worthwhile and it is beneficial to all concerned and hopefully it will go forward and I do believe the SIR has addressed all the key points.

Thank you.


Mr. Watkins: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. This is only my second time to be here. I was here for the first time on the 14th and one thing that I noticed was one of the propositions to bring the water over was through Mexico and there was to be a —

Ms. Card: Excuse me, sir. Excuse me. Could you, please, speak up a little closer to the microphone.

Mr. Watkins: Is that better?

Ms. Card: The court reporter is having a hard time hearing you.

Mr. Watkins: This is my second time here. And on the 14th I was here and I was remembering that one of the opportunities to bring water over was through Mexico. And at that time, I recall them talking about the fact that if that were to be true, Mexico would have the hand on the tap, that is, they would have the opportunity for the first use of the water.