

Memorandum

Date: June 18, 2007

To: Ms. Jean McCue
Division of Water Rights
State Water Resources Control Board
Post Office Box 2000
Sacramento, California 95812-2000

From: Department of Water Resources

Subject: Reconsideration of Order WR 2006-0018-DWR, Denial of North San Joaquin Water Conservation District's Petition for Extension of Time, Water Right Application 12842

STATE WATER RESOURCES
CONTROL BOARD

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DIV. OF WATER RIGHTS
SACRAMENTO

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information regarding State-assisted water management planning efforts for the Mokelumne River and eastern San Joaquin County. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) believes this information is important for the State Water Resources Control Board's (Board) reconsideration of the subject order.

The State-assisted planning efforts mentioned above are being conducted by the Mokelumne River Forum and the Northeastern San Joaquin County Groundwater Banking Authority (GBA). The North San Joaquin Water Conservation District is an active and key member of both organizations.

Mokelumne River Forum

On June 29, 2005, DWR entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with members of the Mokelumne River Forum. Forum members include 13 local water supply agencies, including North San Joaquin Water Conservation District. Forum members are listed in Attachment A.

The purpose of the Mokelumne River Forum is to develop collaborative regional solutions to provide water supply reliability and water quality protection, including solutions for addressing critical overdraft conditions in the Northeastern San Joaquin County Groundwater Basin. DWR has committed about \$400,000 of State funds to support Forum efforts, including measures to develop an inter-regional conjunctive use project to restore and protect the Northeastern San Joaquin County Groundwater Basin and provide drought protection for Amador, Calaveras, and San Joaquin Counties and the service area of East Bay Municipal Utility District. The full amount of water filed under Water Right Application 12842 by North San Joaquin Water Conservation District could be an important component of the Mokelumne River Inter-Regional Conjunctive Use Project, including use of the water for in-lieu and direct groundwater recharge projects.

**Northeastern San Joaquin County Groundwater Banking Authority
Integrated Regional Water Management Plan**

DWR is involved with the development of the Northeastern San Joaquin County Groundwater Banking Authority Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). The GBA is a Joint Exercise of Powers Agency whose purpose is to collectively develop locally-supported projects to strengthen water supply reliability in northeastern San Joaquin County and help ensure the sustainability of the underlying groundwater basin. Eleven local water agencies comprise the GBA, including the North San Joaquin Water Conservation District. Member agencies are listed in Attachment B.

State support for the development of the Northeastern San Joaquin County Groundwater Banking Authority IRWMP and related efforts totals almost \$2,000,000. This includes a \$500,000 planning grant funded under Proposition 50, the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002. The purpose of the grant program is to encourage integrated regional strategies for management of water resources and provide funding for projects that protect communities from drought, protect and improve water quality and improve local water security. The Board and DWR jointly administer planning and implementation grants under Proposition 50. DWR is also funding studies to support IRWMP development, including foundational studies such as a comprehensive groundwater salinity investigation for San Joaquin County.

The Northeastern San Joaquin County Groundwater Banking Authority IRWMP is currently under a public review process and is scheduled to be adopted on July 11, 2007. Water filed under Water Right Application 12842 could be important for implementation of the IRWMP and improvement of water supply and groundwater conditions in eastern San Joaquin County.

Public Interest Considerations

While North San Joaquin Water Conservation District has requested and received previous extensions of time to complete full and beneficial use of water under Application 12842, allowing an additional extension of time for the application is likely in the public interest. An additional extension of time would preserve the limited number of opportunities available for conjunctive management of water resources in San Joaquin County and the restoration and sustainable operation of the Northeastern San Joaquin County Groundwater Basin. Denial of an additional extension at this juncture could be untimely given the substantial State-assisted regional water supply planning efforts underway and the unprecedented amount of progress now being made for

Ms. Jean McCue

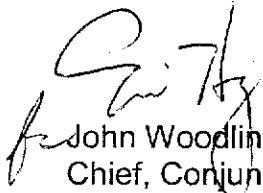
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the region, including the service area of North San Joaquin Water Conservation District.

Integrated Regional Water Management is one of the two principal initiatives identified in the 2005 update of the California Water Plan. If an additional extension of time is granted for Application 12842, it should be of sufficient length to allow State-supported regional planning efforts to be completed and allow the expedient implementation of projects, including any projects identified for North San Joaquin Water Conservation District's full and beneficial use of water under Application 12842.

Please contact me at (916) 651-9291, or Michael Floyd of my staff at (916) 653-7912 or mfloyd@water.ca.gov if you have any questions or concerns.



John Woodling
Chief, Conjunctive Management Branch

Attachments

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**Attachment A
Mokelumne River Forum**

Memorandum of Understanding Signatories

Alpine County
Amador County
Amador Water Agency
Calaveras County Water District
Calaveras Public Utilities District
California Department of Water Resources
City of Lodi
City of Stockton
East Bay Municipal Utility District
Jackson Valley Irrigation District
North San Joaquin Water Conservation District
San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and Mokelumne
River Water and Power Authority
Stockton East Water District
Woodbridge Irrigation District

Other Participating Organizations

Foothill Conservancy
Restore the Delta
South Delta Water Agency
Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Council

Attachment B
Northeastern San Joaquin County Groundwater Banking Authority

California Water Service Company
Central Delta Water Agency
Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District
City of Lodi
City of Stockton
North San Joaquin Water Conservation District
San Joaquin County
San Joaquin County Flood Control and
Water Conservation District
San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation*
South Delta Water Agency
Stockton East Water District
Woodbridge Irrigation District

* Associate member