



# State Water Resources Control Board



**Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D.**  
*Agency Secretary*

**Division of Water Rights**  
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**Arnold Schwarzenegger**  
*Governor*

In Reply Refer to  
A011331, A011332

December 19, 2005

Cachuma Conservation Release Board  
Mr. Gregory K. Wilkinson  
Best, Best & Krieger, LLP  
3750 University Avenue, Suite 400  
Riverside, CA 92501

Dear Mr. Wilkinson:

## CACHUMA PROJECT HEARING (APPLICATIONS 11331 AND 11332)

This responds to your letter dated November 28, 2005, requesting information relating to two new Cachuma Project operational alternatives (Alternatives 5B and 5C) to be included in the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) environmental impact report (EIR) for the Cachuma Project hearing. The addition of the two new alternatives is described in the revised scope of work referenced in your letter. The Cachuma Project Member Units anticipate the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) will pass the cost of adding the alternatives on to the Member Units, and the Member Units seek additional information regarding the alternatives in order to justify paying this cost.

The two new alternatives are being added to the EIR at the direction of the State Water Board's Executive Office. The Supplemental Statement of Responsibilities between the State Water Board and USBR for the preparation of the EIR recognizes that the State Water Board is the lead agency responsible for the preparation and adequacy of the EIR and has final authority over the scope and content. In addition, the Supplemental Statement of Responsibilities recognized that the USBR is responsible for payment of all costs associated with preparation of the EIR. Whether or not the USBR decides to pass the costs associated with the preparation of the EIR on to the Member Units in the form of higher contract rates is a matter to be addressed between USBR and the Member Units.

The Member Units and all of the other parties to the Cachuma Project hearing will obtain the information that the Member Units presently seek, including a detailed description of the alternatives and the anticipated impact of the alternatives on Cachuma Project yield, when the State Water Board recirculates the DEIR. At that time, the Member Units and other parties may provide comments on the alternatives. Additionally, the State Water Board will, if appropriate, hold a hearing on the findings of the Final EIR and whether to accept the Final EIR into the existing hearing record.

***California Environmental Protection Agency***

If you have any questions, please call Diane Riddle at (916) 341-5297 or Dana Heinrich at (916) 341-5188.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Victoria A. Whitney  
Division Chief

Enclosure

cc: Enclosed Service List

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Cachuma Project Hearing  
Phase-2 Hearing  
Final Service List

Updated 01/05/2004

**(Note: The parties whose E-mail addresses are listed below agreed to accept electronic service, pursuant to the rules specified in the hearing notice.)**

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