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Santa Ynez River
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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- GENERAL MANAGER:
BRUCE A. WALES
- SECRETARY:
BRUCE A. WALES
- CONSULTANTS:
- ERNEST A. CONANT
General Counsel
- THOMAS M. STETSON
Engineer

March 3, 1999

Ms. Jan E. Abel, President
Cachuma Conservation and Release Board
P.O. Box 5037
Santa Barbara, CA 93150-5037

Mr. Harlan Burchardi, President
Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District
Improvement District No. 1
P.O. Box 157
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

Re: Invitation to Talk Relative to Lompoc Groundwater Quality
Improvement Program

Dear Ms. Abel and Mr. Burchardi:

Reference is made to your letters of January 6 and February 22, 1999 as well as the City of Lompoc's letter of February 3, 1999.

The District views these proposed discussions relating to water quality issues in the Lompoc Groundwater basin as an informal de facto resumption of the Policy Committee negotiations described in Finding 15 and Term 3(d) of State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Order no. 94-5. Similarly, it appears to us that the as yet uncompleted Lompoc Plain Water Quality Work Plan Manager process is an informal extension of the Technical Committee process described in the SWRCB Order No. 94-5. This District participated in both the Policy Committee meetings and the Technical Committee meetings in the past. We are currently participating in the Lompoc Plain Water Quality Work Plan Manager process. We accept your invitation to participate in the subject discussions at this time.

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Your letter of January 6th and the City of Lompoc's letter of February 3rd suggest various solutions be considered in these discussions. We note that in your initial letter you appropriately state that these discussions should be "without strings or preconditions" and that your outline is not intended to restrict the issues or positions to be discussed. The proposals made to date may not be an appropriate solution for the region. It should be clearly understood that any proposal to deliver SWP water to the Lompoc Valley would not be supported by this Board. We note that agreement has not been reached on either the definition of the water quality problem (including causes and effects) or the methods used to describe the problem.

We also note: (1) with respect to your initial letter, we know of no evidence that timing and ramp down of water rights releases is creating "take" issues associated with endangered species, and (2) with respect to Lompoc's letter of February 3rd, resolution of and formalizing the winter/storm season operations to protect downstream life and property is an important issue that affects the entire Santa Ynez watershed downstream of Cachuma Reservoir and should not be viewed as solely a Lompoc issue.

Additionally, we agree with Lompoc's suggestion, in which you concurred, with respect to the number of representatives to participate in these discussions. We will be sending Board members Pierce and Picciuolo, and as our staff representative, Bruce Wales, General Manager of the District.

We look forward to the opportunity to discuss these matters with you and the City of Lompoc. Please contact Bruce Wales to coordinate a time for our first meeting.

Very Truly Yours,

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



John Markon
President

BAW/jrf

Copy: Dick DeWees, Mayor, City of Lompoc
James Stubchaer, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board
Kirk Rodgers, Acting Regional Director, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

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MONTECITO WATER DISTRICT