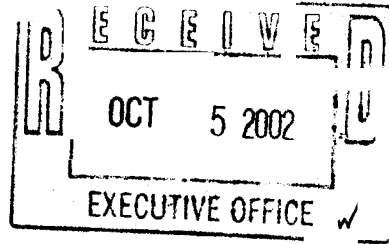


October 9, 2002

Arthur Baggett, Jr.,
Chairman and Hearing Officer
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 "I" Street, 22nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814



Desert Chapter

Building Industry Association
of Southern California

77-570 Springfield Lane
Suite E
Palm Desert, California 92211
760.360.2476
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Oct 16th IID W/S
Cp: BL, MM,
E-mail to CC, HMS
GMW, VW
AF DD

Re: IID/SDCWA Water Transfer Hearing: Comment on the Draft Order issued September 26, 2001.

Dear Mr. Baggett:

On behalf of the members of Desert Chapter, Building Industry Association of Southern California and the thousands of residents they house, I am writing to express our concern about your findings regarding the potential air quality impacts due to exposed shoreline at the Salton Sea.

Your draft order states that air quality impacts due to shoreline exposure will be avoided for fifteen years, but it does not appear to require effective air quality mitigation after the fifteen year period has passed. In fact, on page 76 of your draft order, you state that "overriding considerations" outweigh air quality impacts that are not avoidable or mitigable. Further, your order says that IID "should" mitigate air quality impacts after fifteen years but does not appear to require them to do so. Your order leaves us with little assurance that air quality in the Coachella Valley will be protected over the long term.

Presently, the Coachella Valley is in a non-attainment status for PM-10, but we have worked out a plan to overcome our dust problems and return the valley to an attainment status. Potential PM-10 from the Salton Sea area could tip the scales and return us to non-attainment, a situation the building industry and valley residents as a whole cannot afford.

We appreciate the importance of the state interest in the successful initiation of the water transfer and the 4.4 Plan. However, we are very concerned about the future of the Coachella Valley. We ask you to require IID to mitigate or avoid air quality impacts from exposed shoreline at the Salton Sea to protect the investment of our members and the health and well being of the people of the Coachella Valley.

Sincerely;

Diana Martinez
President