

June 19, 2002

Mr. Arthur Baggett, Jr., Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, California 95812

Dear Mr. Baggett:

I am writing you, both, as President of the Board of Directors of the El Centro Chamber of Commerce and as Imperial County Superintendent of Schools regarding the proposed water transfer between the Imperial Irrigation District and San Diego.

During the past three years, I have also served on a Citizen's Advisory Commission studying the social and economic impacts of the proposed transfer. During all of this we have reviewed much information and data including that developed in the EIR through the Imperial Irrigation District. **As has been very clearly outlined, the transfer document signed between the I.I.D. and San Diego prohibits fallowing.** The prohibition on fallowing was agreed to because of the projected job loss and economic dislocation that would occur in Imperial Valley as a result of the diminution of agriculture as our economic base.

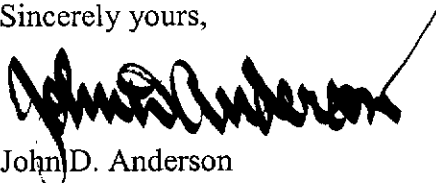
What is of most concern at this point in the water transfer process is a shift in what was proposed in the original transfer agreement. As I am sure you are aware, that agreement was based on conservation measures, both in system and on farm, being implemented. Furthermore, farmers would not be required to participate in the conservation program, but rather could volunteer for that purpose. At this point we read almost daily or hear from various politicians and boards that the simple solution is to simply have Imperial Valley fallow farmland in order to meet the terms of the proposed transfer. While we have been aware of fallowing as a possibility or as a part of the solution all along, it is now a facile response for those who suggest that our water may not be most beneficially used here in Imperial Valley and who desire to have this wonderful, natural resource simply transferred to their jurisdictions for their own purposes of growth.

A final concern involves the Salton Sea. Environmentalists, of course, are objecting to the transfer without sufficient provision to insure protection of wildlife in the Salton Sea, be they birds or fish. It is clear that during the last several years of study and preparation for an EIR, that indeed the Salton Sea which is already destined naturally to die, would require significant mitigation efforts were it to be protected for environmental purposes. While Imperial Valley and our custodians of the water, the Imperial Irrigation District, have always been willing to work on

the details of a fair transfer of water to San Diego, this is a time when if the urban areas truly need this water that politicians and others must get together to become part of the solution for the Salton Sea. It is patently unfair to expect a farm-based community in Imperial Valley to both transfer water and save the Salton Sea without significant outside help. The environment is a state and federal as well as local concern. At this point, while local officials are studying what might done, state and federal officials need to do more to become part of the solution.

In the meantime, I wish to be clearly on record as being opposed to fallowing as a means of generating the water for transfer to San Diego or elsewhere on the coastal plain.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

John D. Anderson
County Superintendent

JDA/trb