



Imperial Valley Press



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June 20, 2002

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

Dear Mr. Baggett:

I am writing you as a concerned Imperial Valley citizen and business operator. Over the next few months an agreement of historic proportions needs to be finalized creating the largest rural to urban water transfer in U.S. history. I believe in principle that this water transfer has merit in meeting the ever growing needs of our coastal neighbors in San Diego. As originally designed, the QSA water transfers would provide lease payments from the urban sector that would be used for system and on-farm water conservation measures in the Imperial Valley, thereby making water available for this transfer, improving our water use efficiency and creating much needed jobs.

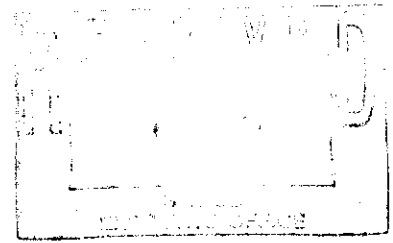
Over the past months the methods for availing water for this transfer have shifted from on-farm conservation to fallowing. Clearly, fallowing was not an option when the original transfer documents were developed. For very good reasons, the Imperial Valley understands that the forced fallowing of acreage would have devastating economic outcomes for us. Imperial County already deals with ridiculously high unemployment and the prospect of an additional 2000 direct job losses combined with 3rd party business impacts would be staggering. Fallowing accomplishes nothing other than setting a very dangerous precedent for drying up more and more cropland in the future as water demand grows.

It is imperative that this transfer proceed based on the original precepts of on-farm conservation and water use efficiency. The Imperial Valley did not come to this conclusion overnight. We have put a huge amount of time, money and effort to craft an agreement that will be positive for all parties. Absentee politics and emotion must be checked at the door and not allowed to rule the process.

I appreciate your attention to this issue. Hopefully all parties can find consensus in an agreement that brings about the appropriate and timely implementation of the QSA.

Sincerely,

David M. Leone
President & Publisher



June 20, 2002

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

This letter is written in reference to the ongoing water transfer negotiations between Imperial Irrigation District and San Diego. The original agreed upon concept behind the water transfer was to conserve water through on farm savings. Pilot projects have been ongoing in Imperial Valley to determine the value of water conservation. Saving water has not been ignored by our communities. It has been acceptable to us to transfer water to the coast our additional costs are paid by the water recipient and as long as our economy is not negatively impacted. San Diego has agreed to this and full utilization of our farmground.

The recent water transfer environmental report places some doubt as to the ability to conserve water without a negative impact to the environment. With the end of 2002 deadline for completing an agreement, those in power are looking to take the fastest way via fallowing. Fallowing appears to be the solution being forced upon Imperial Valley without adequate time to address the environmental issues and solutions. It is not reasonable to expect the participants in this transfer to research the alternatives to mitigate the environmental problems by the end of the year. The first thing that needs to be done is to provide adequate time to consider all of the options and scientifically justify solutions. At this point, the process is proceeding blindly forward with what appears to be little regard to those who live, work, and own businesses in Imperial Valley. We have few resources and a high unemployment. Taking away our most important resource magnifies problems in our communities. Lets take some time to think through these problems.

Sincerely,

Donald P. Glud
1881 Santa Rosa Road
El Centro, California 92243