

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER EXCHANGE CONTRACTORS WATER AUTHORITY

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Consisting of 240,000 acres on the Westside of the San Joaquin River
April 11, 1997

VIA FACSIMILE AND FEDERAL EXPRESS

Western Water Policy Review Advisory Commission
P.O. Box 25007, D-5001
Denver, CO 80225-0007

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Water Resources Specialist

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Administrative Assistant

CHINASIAN LAW FIRM
Legal Counsel

**RE: Comments from San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors
Water Authority on Sacramento-San Joaquin River Basin
Study**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Following are comments from the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority on the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Basin Study:

**Central California
Irrigation District**

JAMES E. O'BANION
President

MIKE PORTER
General Manager

San Luis Canal Company

JACK THRELKELD
President

ROBERT E. CAPEHART
General Manager

**Firebaugh Canal
Water District**

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President

JEFF BRYANT
General Manager

**Columbia Canal
Company**

DARRELL VINCENT
President

DAVID WOOLLEY
General Manager

1. On Page 17, paragraph 3, the reference to "highly saline" is an inflammatory term. If there are exact facts and statistics supporting the claim of "highly saline," then they should be stated.
2. Page 18, paragraph 1, regarding the sentence, "However, chemical analyses of plants, fish and waterfowl living in the Delta and San Francisco Bay indicate that selenium levels in the water do not yet appear to be excessively high." Again, this sentence uses inflammatory language. The word, "yet" implies there will be a problem. What are these concerns based on?
3. Page 21, under the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority reference, sentence 2, the word "water" should be deleted and the phrase, "a substitute water supply," should be inserted. The sentence as amended should read, "The contractors used to draw their water directly from the San Joaquin River, but "exchanged" that for a substitute water supply drawn from the Delta when Reclamation built Friant Dam."
4. On Pages 60, and 61, regarding CVPIA and water transfers, I was wondering if you actually spoke to CCID?

Also, in connection with those pages, the Exchange Contractors have done transfers under CVPIA, for the past 3 years, including 1997. My point is that it seems to be indicated in the report that the districts are the "bad" agencies holding up the transfers. The truth of the matter is that Areias Dairy Farms was going to sell their surface water supply and then pump

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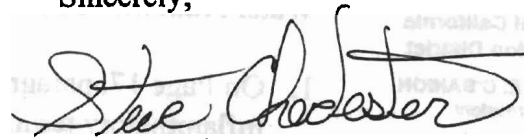
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groundwater - more groundwater than Areias had ever pumped. The Areias' were essentially going to be mining the groundwater, and they were called on this issue. That is why the transfer was never completed.

5. Finally, on Page 119, under the Recommendations section, I request that the first bulleted item, beginning with, "Review the possibility of re-establishing the authority to establish river basin commission, etc." be completely stricken from the report.

Thank you for reviewing and implementing the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority's comments, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Steve Chedester
Executive Director