SAN JOAQUIN RIVER
EXCHANGE CONTRACTORS WATER AUTHORITY

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

VIA FACSIMILE AND FEDERAL EXPRESS

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

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.

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
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