To: Gorke, Roger[Gorke.Roger@epa.gov]
From: Jeff Shields
Sent: Wed 7/10/2013 5:09:23 PM
Subject: RE: Storage Article from last week

Roger,

I am happy to see that the OpEd made its way to D.C. So the legislation (HR 2554) is intended to force the Bureau to issue a Warren Act contract to us (OID & SSJID) so that we can retain water that is conserved by investments made in our service area for use in subsequent years by our growers or can be transferred to those who need it outside our service area. For example, if SSJID can conserve and store 50,000AF this year using a Warren Act agreement in New Melones, and we find that we won't need that water next year for our growers, then we could make that available to the Bureau for their

regulatory/environmental water requirements. I invested $13M in a state of the art pressurized irrigation system last year resulting in 6,800AF annual savings in irrigation water. I also am in the third year of a $1.5M/yr on-farm water conservation program to help growers use water more efficiently. The problem is I have no incentive to continue those investments if I have no way of holding onto that water for future use. I also have some flexibility in my agricultural practices by changing rotations and through some conjunctive use options that can result in water being stored in New Melones that otherwise simply won't be available. However, the Bureau has taken the position that if I leave any water in New Melones at the end of September that becomes their water. That is fine except I have no incentive to spend my customers money to save water or to curtail diversions and shorten delivery's in order to conserve for next year if the Feds simply steal the resulting water.

New Melones rarely fills to capacity so it's not like the Bureau has a problem storing 100,000AF in most years. And SSJID/OID would pay for this storage service.

Now the rant....

It's funny that I just got a box delivered to my office from a family farm operation (www.farmfreshtoyou.com) which my wife subscribes to. They grow and delivered to you fresh organic food. If I am not able to provide reliable water for growers like this I will be buying imported food which has a lot of undesirable aspects. It would useful if the federal government could cooperate with local irrigation agencies to use existing facilities more efficiently because if that doesn't happen then the big dogs will come off the porch (Westland's and Paramount

Farms) and force taxpayers to invest in new storage which frankly is a waste of money. All this talk about building new storage at a time that existing reservoirs only fill once every 8-10 years and groundwater across California is declining is foolish. The CVP and SWP need to work with us to use their facilities efficiently and allow storage and groundwater recharge and conjunctive use programs rather than putting up hurdles.

Hopefully that clears the air a bit. I am happy to talk directly to you if you're interested just give me a call. You and EPA may not be "decision makers" but you wield influence. Unfortunately at this point we find our agency in a defensive position against the Bureau and DWR and many other state and federal agencies when it comes to the BDCP and things like the proposed Water Bond. It would be much better to be paying biologists to help restore the Delta and return native fish to our waters than paying lawyers to defend us against attacks from state and federal agencies. And better to invest in new water technologies than to prop up legacy inefficiencies from our grandfathers federal policies.

From: Gorke, Roger [mailto:Gorke.Roger@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2013 8:26 AM
To: Jeff Shields
Subject: Storage Article from last week

Jeff,

I am not sure I understand your proposal. Not that I or EPA are anyway a decision maker. Just trying to understand.

Thanks

Roger

http://www.mantecabulletin.com/section/160/article/78716/

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