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Subject: DREIR Commentary

There are both primary and secondary impacts to the current operation of the Kern Water Bank:

- The area is a de facto private duck club: the same owner has been depleting the water at Kern National Wildlife preserve by the abutting land conversion and pumping. Is this also a factor at the water bank and a precursor to avian cholera or other diseases?
- Is this also a operational impact at other public or private duck clubs in the area?
- There has been cracking of the slabs at homes near Taft, is the subsidence caused from the water bank and other of the owners properties a contributing factor.
- Does the subsidence geomorphically impact the attempts to restore flows to the San Joaquin and salmon restoration?
- The refusal to Spray resulted in deaths which the current owner is responsible, though sneaking this into a County cost, does not this still evince a tendency to disregard the Health and Safety of the local population?
- The Migrating water into the Water Bank from areas such as the City and Rosedale are causing shortages. Does not the fact of Rosedale's going dry not constitute a Health and Safety issue?
- Does not the corruption that the current situation as to State and Local governments constitute a resulting health issue in the creation of what the LA TIMES has termed third world environments? Does the euphemism of underserved communities alleviate the problem?
- The focus on acquiring supplies from other areas to what may best be termed an aquatic parking lot and thus does it divert focus from acquiring "new" water such as retrofitting reservoirs to increase their capacity or addressing the ET loss? Does the Department even have personnel in decision positions aware of such possibilities or are they made to focus on deferring to the Banks operator? It is one or the other.
- Would not the State Pay in lieu fees to the County which is providing services , including the spraying, while being stiffed on taxes being paid by the Owner?
- Of course there are impacts up stream to the areas from which the water is taken. How can the Department justify the economic impacts, let alone the environmental ones, to these areas?
- The Water Bank is a weed reservoir spreading them to other areas and even clogging the aqueduct and canals. Discing tumbleweeds does a good job of planting and finally using cattle for grazing may be cheaper than goats ,but is it more efficient ?
- The problem of legacy oil sumps and spills etc might just be interesting to look at. Does the Department consider this worthwhile?
- Would not it be cost effective and environmentally to not pump the water over the transverse range but halt the water at the Water Bank if a public entity and use desalinization in the LA area?.
- What is the amount of hydropower used for pumping and how much water is then used for power production that is not conjunctive and thus a negative to Statewide water availability?



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South Central Region

Board of Supervisors,  
County of Kern  
1115 Truxtun Ave  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Water Board  
City of Bakersfield  
1000 Buena Vista  
Bakersfield, CA 93312

Subject:; Groundwater Authorities

Mister Chairmen, Board Members and other Locals:

When asked about relationships with other agencies, the Paramount manager , who was also the Water Bank manager and chair of a Kern water marketing committee stated: "...we certainly aren't going to let the locals tell us what to do"- a policy that has continued:

- Paramount's properties pay no taxes to the cash strapped local's governments including the 23,000 acre water bank, the mile long plant at Lost hills and its industrial and logistic parks.
- Though" the locals" owning property are taxed for Paramount's benefit, its satraps recently were irate that it would have to pay transfer fees for its acquisition of local water at nominal cost.
- Water supplies and availability for "the locals" have been curtailed when local water has migrated to the Water Bank- replacing water mined and exported.
- When the Water Bank received water releases from Isabella Reservoir, spraying was deemed too expensive and fought in court the year that "the locals" led the State in West Nile Virus cases and deaths.

Representatives of the locals ought now consider whether to continue this colonial system in light of the following:

- Locals who acquire knowledge of the above, from media more independent than that locally, may be less co-operative in conservation measures they see saving water for an external entities benefit.
- The negative impacts to local M&I groundwater resources
- The limitation of water imports to the local area from such areas who rely on it for their different type of agriculture, which is not obsessed with farming taxpayers, and loathe seeing their water taken for resale.

Sincerely,

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