

2-7-07

To: Tracie Billington, DWR Division of Planning and Local Assistance
Scott Couch, SWRCB Division of Financial Planning

From: Nancy Praizler, City of Chico citizen

Subject: Stop the DWR funding of the Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management (SVIRW) Implementation Proposal

Dear Tracie and Scott,

I've lived in Chico the past 35 years and have enjoyed good drinking water and our creeks. I want to be sure my grandchildren and many future generations will enjoy them too. That can happen with good planning but the SVIRWM Implementation Proposal is not good planning. I ask you to stop all funding for the implementation proposal! Here are four good reasons to support my request.

First, the Northern California Water Association (NCWA) and its Joint Powers Authority (JPA) do not represent Butte County and the SVIRWM Plan does not represent our public's interest. It is not a genuine, regional plan. It is not a "grassroots, bottom-up program comprised of many projects, plans, and partnerships with common objectives and a long-term vision."

Second, too many of the implementation projects in the proposal allow more than 20 production wells to tap into the aquifer, damaging our economy and environment. The cities of Chico and Oroville, those with private wells, and the public have not been allowed to give full input about these projects. We are the ones who will suffer dramatically. It is immoral to proceed without our full input.

Third, we aren't ready to fund projects to extract and store water. The SVIRWM Plan did not accurately assess the existing conditions of the aquifer, the surface flow processes, nor the estimates of conditions under prolonged drought. We must have accurate assessments before proceeding.

Fourth, while the NCWA's JPA claims there is a water shortage in California, The California Water Plan, released in 2005, says that over the next 25 years, in spite of increased population, water demand will drop. The Pacific Institute used the same model the state used for its water projections, and found that water use in California could actually decrease by 20% in the next 25 years. For more information, see http://www.pacinst.org/reports/california_water_2030/index.htm.

Funding the Implementation Proposal is a mistake that can cause irreparable damage. I urge you to stop the funding for this proposal.

Thank you!