

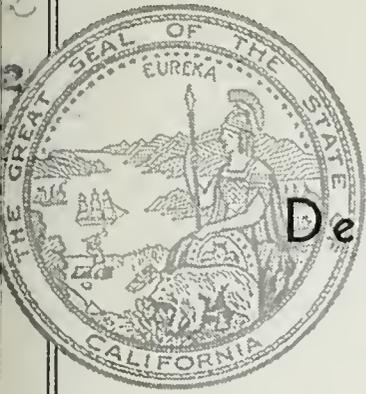
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BULLETIN No. 105-2

NORTH COASTAL AREA ACTION PROGRAM  
A Study of the McKinleyville-Trinidad Area

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS

A Summary of the Public Hearing  
Comments on Bulletin No. 105-2,  
Dated February 1969



DECEMBER 1970

NORMAN B. LIVERMORE, JR.  
Secretary for Resources  
The Resources Agency

RONALD REAGAN  
Governor  
State of California

WILLIAM R. GIANELLI  
Director  
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Department of Water Resources  
P. O. Box 388  
Sacramento, Calif. 95802

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## FOREWORD

This supplement and the February 1969 edition of Bulletin No. 105-2, "North Coastal Area Action Program -- A Study of the McKinleyville-Trinidad Area", serve as the complete edition of Bulletin No. 105-2. This supplement presents (1) a summary of the investigation leading to the preliminary edition, (2) a summary of the public hearing testimony on the bulletin, (3) a discussion of the action that has been taken since the public hearing, and (4) the findings and recommendations of the Department of Water Resources concerning the investigation and the public hearing.

Bulletin No. 105-2 reports on a 1-1/2-year reconnaissance investigation of possible water supplies for the McKinleyville-Trinidad area.

The comments received at the public hearing indicated that the people of the area were in general accord with the Department's evaluation of the water supply problems. Since the public hearing, several population centers within the study area have gone ahead with plans for local water distribution systems. Four of the areas have applied for funds under the Davis-Grunsky Act, the State's program of financial assistance to public agencies for construction of local water projects.

The public hearing on this investigation was held jointly by the California Water Commission and the Department of Water Resources in McKinleyville on June 30, 1969. Ira J. Chrisman, Chairman of the California Water Commission, was the hearing officer for the joint hearing, which was held in accordance with the Water Resources Act of 1945 set forth in the California Water Code under Sections 12616 to 12622 inclusive and Section 12626. Transcripts of this hearing are on file with the California Water Commission in Sacramento and the Northern District of the Department of Water Resources in Red Bluff and are available for review by the public.

*William R. Gianelli*  
William R. Gianelli, Director  
Department of Water Resources  
The Resources Agency  
State of California  
November 27, 1970

State of California  
The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

RONALD REAGAN, Governor  
NORMAN B. LIVERMORE, JR., Secretary for Resources, The Resources Agency  
WILLIAM R. GIANELLI, Director, Department of Water Resources  
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Department of Water Resources  
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## SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION

This section presents the conclusions and recommendations published in the preliminary edition of Bulletin No. 105-2, February 1969.

1. The best way to provide additional water supplies to the McKinleyville-Trinidad area would be through annexation to the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District and construction of a pipeline from HBMWD into the McKinleyville-Trinidad area.

2. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in its recent studies of the Mad River Basin has determined that the best long-term way to provide future water supplies to the HBMWD would be the construction of the now authorized Butler Valley Project on the Mad River.

3. The Lindsay Creek Project -- consisting of a dam and reservoir on Lindsay Creek, tributary to the Mad River -- could provide a safe annual yield of 26,000 acre-feet to the HBMWD and would be an excellent recreation project. The project would have a gross storage capacity of 17,700 acre-feet, a normal water surface area of 620 acres, and an investment cost of \$12,400,000. If constructed in 1975, it would have a benefit-cost ratio of 1.3:1.0.

4. In the event the McKinleyville area does not annex to HBMWD, the Trinidad-Moonstone area must independently seek new water supplies. Two local water sources are available to this area: Luffenholtz Creek and M-Line Creek. A diversion of natural flows from Luffenholtz Creek near its mouth could provide a short-term (10 to 20 years) water supply. The M-Line Creek Project could serve as either a later, staged, supplementary supply to a Luffenholtz Creek diversion or an independent long-term (50 years) water supply.

5. The M-Line Project -- consisting of a dam and reservoir on M-Line Creek and a pump diversion system to lift water into the upper Luffenholtz Creek drainage area -- could provide a safe annual yield of 1,100 acre-feet to the Trinidad-Moonstone area. This yield would meet the expected water needs of the area until the year 2020. The single-purpose water supply project would have a reservoir with a gross storage capacity of 780 acre-feet, and a normal water surface area of 33 acres. The investment cost of the project would be \$1,500,000, not including a distribution system.

It is recommended in the preliminary edition of Bulletin No. 105-2 that:

1. The McKinleyville-Trinidad area annex to the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District.
2. Humboldt County and the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District maintain an active involvement throughout the funding, final planning, construction, and operation phases of the Butler Valley Project.
3. If the HEMWD finds it advisable to construct a smaller-scale project to provide a limited water supply, the District should consider the Lindsay Creek Project which could fulfill its demands for a 10- to 15-year period.
4. If the Trinidad-Moonstone area finds it necessary to seek a water supply, other than HEMWD, a diversion from Luffenholtz Creek or a dam on M-Line Creek should be considered. If a diversion from Luffenholtz Creek is selected as the initial development, then the M-Line Project should be considered as a possible future addition and provisions made in the initial development to incorporate this future addition.

## SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY

All comments received on the bulletin are briefly summarized below. When specific questions are asked, or where clarification of a point is required, a "Department Response" is included.

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers -- Concurs with the report conclusions that the best way to provide additional water supplies to the McKinleyville-Trinidad area is by annexation to the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District and that the best long-term way to provide future water supplies to HBMWD would be to construct the authorized Butler Valley Project. The Corps is concerned, however, that the report, by assuming that the Butler Valley Reservoir Project would not be constructed until 1985, tends to over-emphasize the need for interim water supply measures.

Funds in the amount of \$200,000 to initiate advance engineering and design are now in the President's revised budget for the fiscal year 1970. Based on receipt of these funds prior to the end of this calendar year, the Corps' schedules for design and construction indicate that the Butler Valley Project could be completed and in full operation during 1977. Bulletin No. 105-2 notes that the Lindsay Creek Project, the most logical source of interim water supply, could not be operational before 1975.

Department Response: The Department recognizes that if the Butler Valley Project proceeds as now anticipated by the Corps of Engineers, the construction of an interim project such as Lindsay Creek would not be necessary. The Lindsay Creek Project is suggested as a potential interim source of water only if construction of the Butler Valley Project is delayed.

California State Department of Fish and Game -- Generally concurs with the conclusions and recommendations of the report but wishes to offer a few minor suggestions for further consideration in the event additional studies are conducted on these projects.

"If the distribution system for M-Line Reservoir (page 19 of Bulletin No. 105-2) involves a diversion from Luffenholtz Creek, we recommend that a minimum flow of 0.25 cubic feet per second be released downstream from the point of diversion. This recommendation was made recently in connection with a Davis-Grunsky feasibility report submitted by the City of Trinidad.

"In connection with Lindsay Creek Dam, the report (page 28) states that gravels for the dam would be taken from Mad River. While we have no specific objection to the use of Mad River gravel for that purpose, we would like to emphasize that damage to the aquatic habitat should be avoided to the extent possible. Also, we believe the outlet structure

for Lindsay Creek Dam (page 29) should be provided with multiple-level intakes for water quality control purposes.

"We note that our recommended fish maintenance flows below Lindsay Creek Dam were inadvertently omitted from the Bulletin No. 105-2. Our report recommended a minimum release of 5 cubic feet per second between the dam and the mouth of Squaw Creek. In the event that the Butler Valley Project replaced the water supply function at some future time, minimum flows in the stream above Squaw Creek should be 5 cubic feet per second from July through March and 15 cubic feet per second during April, May, and June.

"We wish to emphasize that our wildlife studies in connection with these projects were limited. Late in the investigation, we discovered a possible conflict between our proposed wildlife mitigation areas for Lindsay Creek Reservoir (page 30) and the proposed recreation areas. During any future studies of this project, more attention should be devoted to the development of an adequate wildlife mitigation plan to compensate for inundated habitat.

"The estimated 1975 recreation use of 155,000 days at Lindsay Creek Reservoir (page 32, 5th paragraph) does not agree with the 115,000 days presented in Table 7. Apparently, one is a typographical error."

Department Response (Commenting in order on the above five paragraphs): The State Water Resources Control Board, at a public hearing held in Eureka on September 24, 1969, obtained testimony that led to a ruling concerning the Luffenholtz Creek water rights applications of Della Mallory and the City of Trinidad. The ruling reads in part as follows:

"The board is cognizant of the desirability of protecting fish and the related recreational advantages, but this fishery is quite small, and the stream could be restocked by the Department of Fish and Game at an estimated cost of a few hundred dollars, in the event an unusual shortage of water should occur in the future. Under these conditions, it is considered preferable to restock the stream, if required, rather than subjecting domestic and municipal uses to maintenance of flow for fish life."

If a feasibility-level study of the Lindsay Creek Project is made, the problems involved in the use of Mad River gravel for construction purposes and the suggested multiple-level intakes will be carefully considered.

Concerning fish maintenance flows, an addition to the first paragraph under the heading Fishery Preservation and Enhancement on page 29 of the report should be made as follows:

"A minimum fish maintenance release of 5 cubic feet per second should be maintained between the dam and the mouth of

Squaw Creek. In the event that the Butler Valley Project replaced the water supply function at some future time, minimum flows in the stream above Squaw Creek should be 5 cubic feet per second from July through March and 15 cubic feet per second from April through June."

A fish maintenance flow of 5 cubic feet per second was included in operation studies of Lindsay Creek Reservoir.

The Department of Water Resources is in agreement with the suggestion to develop a better wildlife mitigation plan for the Lindsay Creek Reservoir if additional studies of the project are made.

The estimated 1975 recreation use at Lindsay Creek Reservoir is 115,000 visitor-days as stated in Table 7, not 155,000 visitor-days as stated on page 32.

California State Department of Parks and Recreation -- Department spokesman J. F. Thorp testified that Parks and Recreation is currently planning a development at Trinidad, in areas previously acquired, and ultimately will have about 250 trailer and campsites there. The initial development is planned for completion in fiscal year 1973-74 and will need water at that time. The development's ultimate need will be 50,000 gallons a day, and Parks and Recreation is very much interested in cooperating with anybody in developing a water supply because water is the key to the development.

California State Department of Public Health, Bureau of Sanitary Engineering -- Concurred in general with the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report and offered the following comments:

"We wish to clarify the statement appearing in paragraph 2, page 24 of the bulletin -- 'The existing treatment of water by Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District is thought to be adequate for purification of water supply releases from Lindsay Creek Reservoir.' At the present time, the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District provides only disinfection, as a means of treatment. Unfortunately, the Ranney collectors do not provide the degree of filtration expected of them, and during the winter months, water derived from the collectors serving domestic water may have turbidity varying between 0.24 to 47.0 j.t.u. and the coliform MPN/100 ml in undisinfected water may range from less than 2.0 to 240.0. Since the upper limits of turbidity and coliform MPN do not meet Public Health Guides for treatment provided, the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering has advised the Water District of this matter. On June 2, 1969, the District informed this Bureau that a six to ten million gallon per day clarifier will be constructed to remove any excess turbidity above the U. S. Public Health Drinking Water Standards, and to provide adequate disinfection contact time to meet the bacteriological standard of quality. We feel that with the proposed treatment, or further modification thereof, Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District will have adequate purification provided for the water supply releases from Lindsay Creek Reservoir as well as from the existing sources.

"In addition, we wish to offer the following specific comments and recommendations:

1. The close proximity of septic tanks and drainage systems to individual wells in the McKinleyville area constitute a potential health hazard to certain individual domestic water users. This conclusion was confirmed by sanitary surveys and results of water sampling of individual wells conducted by the Humboldt County Health Department.
2. To provide assured public health and safety of the population of the McKinleyville area, we agree with the Department of Water Resources for the need to develop a reliable and safe public water supply -- preferably through formation of a public entity and annexation to the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District.
3. In the interim, we recommend establishing a policy of tighter control for ground water development and the continuation of the present real estate development by the county health department. Consequently, we suggest that Humboldt County adopt suitable well water standards equal to State of California, Bulletin No. 74, Department of Water Resources, dated February 1968, or modified in accordance with the local conditions.
4. Any surface water sources development for domestic service use should be given complete treatment including coagulation, sedimentation, filtration, and chlorination."

Guy E. Rusher, Supervisor, Humboldt County -- Stated that the goal of the county officials is to serve the needs of the people of Humboldt County and that a rather large contiguous area north and east of Arcata is urgently in need of water and sewage facilities. Public officials are obligated to the people to see through to completion a project that is so vitally needed.

It has been strongly emphasized that annexation to the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District is the quickest and cheapest route to go considering all of the area that needs water and also considering that the entire area that will be served is contiguous, including Fieldbrook.

The first and most urgent step toward completion of this project is to make preliminary application for the funding and the financing. Formation of the proper entity has been the stumbling block. If this initial step can be hurdled, the rest should fall in line.

Supervisor Rusher stated that he didn't want to pass up any alternative, but did want to find the proper method as quickly as possible and as cheaply as possible and complete the project.

Guy C. Kulstad, Director of Public Works, Humboldt County -- Asked for a show of hands to determine just how many people in the audience would benefit if any area-wide water system were constructed. After 30 to 40 people raised their hands, he stated that if the area is ever to have a satisfactory water system, many more people than that were going to have to get involved. Public agencies won't be likely to get involved with the situation if the local residents are satisfied with conditions as they are.

The thing that concerns everyone is the cost. Some very preliminary statements of costs have been made and, depending on the number of customers involved, the cost per customer would be somewhere between \$5 and \$10 per house. Some people who have wells or other sources of water indicate that this is too much to pay, but if accurate cost records were kept on the wells it would be found that the cost is much more than \$5 and probably closer to \$10 a month per well. There have been some indications that the costs might be even as low as \$4 per month if a system as is recommended in Bulletin No. 105-2 and all of the other related hardware were developed in this area.

Richard A. Sherman, Humboldt County Health Department -- Testified that McKinleyville is in dire need of either a water system or a sewer system, with a water system being first, preferably. Health Department surveys undertaken in parts of McKinleyville and the Dows Prairie area have shown actual sewage pollution to the ground water stratas.

Gena M. Wright, Humboldt County Health Department -- Testified that in the summer and fall Trinidad residents are short on water and that during that period she has wigglers and polliwogs coming out of the kitchen faucet. The water system is improperly maintained and it would be better to join a district where adequate water could be provided under adequate supervision.

Fred W. Slack, Director, Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District -- Stated that the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District has thoroughly reviewed the Department's conclusions and concurs completely. The District in 1967 adopted by resolution a policy on water development and expansion. In summary, this policy acknowledges the District's responsibility to meet the growth requirements for water within the District's boundaries and in addition the areas outside the District but adjacent to it. The District is therefore both willing and able to supply water to the McKinleyville-Trinidad area.

However, the people within the area must take the initiative to provide themselves with the vehicle of government such as a community services district or some similar type of political entity to distribute water within the area. With the creation of such an entity, the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District is ready to undertake to provide water for the Trinidad and McKinleyville areas.

Karl H. Baruth, Baruth and Yoder, Planning Consultants for Humboldt County -- Took issue with the statement that the "water requirements will be contingent upon population growth" (page 10 of the bulletin). He stated that there is no mention in the report of the considerable amount of water requirements needed by the increasing stream of tourists staying in new hotels, new camping and trailer grounds, and new motels. Further, no mention is given of the water requirements for the remaining agricultural use, if any.

In addition, he took issue with the statement that "very little new industrial water use . . . is the predicted future trend" (page 10), since he perceives some industrial development in the McKinleyville area in the future.

Only after the water needs for agriculture, industry, and especially tourism in addition to the local population needs are included in the forecast, can a more realistic figure for future water requirements be arrived at. It may then very well turn out that the Department's projections for future water requirements are much too low.

Department Response: We feel that our estimates, based on the area's potential for growth and the actual growth that has occurred, are reasonable. (See the Department Response on page 17 for a discussion of historical and projected growth rates for the area.)

The McKinleyville-Trinidad area is mainly residential in nature, and the majority of its residents work outside the area. While recreation demands and industrial development will increase in many areas along the North Coast, we do not foresee a change in the basic residential pattern which has been established. Estimating future recreational and industrial water use in this region is difficult at best. Agricultural water demands, which are being adequately served by wells and diversions from the Mad River, are expected to decrease in the future due to urban encroachment. In the years immediately following the development of a community water system, the McKinleyville-Trinidad area will have an excess amount of available water. During this time a clearer estimate of the long-range future needs can be made and planned for accordingly.

Mr. Henry E. Berube, President, and Mr. George Berry, Water Committee Chairman, Greater Chamber of Commerce in McKinleyville -- Concurred with the recommendation in the report that the McKinleyville area rejoin the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District and accepted the report, findings, and conclusions.

The Chamber presented the following conclusions:

1. The community of McKinleyville and outlying areas has definite problems with water shortage and quality.
2. Ground water is only a temporary source of water for a growing community such as McKinleyville.

3. A community water supply would definitely be advantageous to the McKinleyville area in terms of good water, adequate supply, fire protection, and dollars saved in the long run.

4. We are in agreement with the recommendations and suggestions in Bulletin No. 105-2 and are primarily concerned with obtaining community water at the earliest possible date and at the most economical price possible.

5. As for our distribution system, we recommend using Davis-Grunsky funds, if available, and either using the Humboldt County Flood Control District as an entity or establishing a community services district.

Dr. Rudolf W. Becking, Forest Research Consultant -- Made the following statements:

1. Technical information requested from the Department of Water Resources was not received. Government agencies should be more responsive to queries for information that are clearly in the public interest.

Department Response: The Department regrets that Dr. Becking was not satisfied with the responses that he received. The Department attempts to the best of its ability to cooperate with all interested agencies and citizens. To that end, six letters answering technical questions concerning the Tri-Lake Plan and the McKinleyville-Trinidad study were sent to Dr. Becking. An engineer from the Department's Northern District office in Red Bluff met with Dr. Becking in Eureka and discussed the study with him at length. Numerous invitations were extended for a conference in Red Bluff, none of which were accepted. Three public meetings were held in the study area to present the findings of Bulletin No. 105-2. At none of these meetings did Dr. Becking take the opportunity to pose questions personally to department officials. We feel that we have afforded full opportunity to Dr. Becking in his effort to participate in the formation of a water plan for the McKinleyville-Trinidad area.

2. Nothing has been proposed concerning the Little River area, which is the greatest source of water supply.

Department Response: On page 1, Bulletin No. 105-2 states:

"After meetings with local agencies, a joint work program was devised whereby: The Department of Water Resources would study the M-Line Project and the Lindsay Creek Project; the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District would study potential projects on Little River; and Winzler and Kelly Engineers of Eureka, in addition to providing their normal services to HBMWD, would study possible sources of supply for the City of Trinidad."

In July 1968, Winzler and Kelly Engineers prepared and made available to interested parties a 95-page report "Feasibility of Developing Supplemental Water Supply from Little River for Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District". A summary of the findings of this report is included in Bulletin No. 105-2, page 40.

3. Bulletin No. 105-2 is prejudiced by the fact that cost figures provided by HBMWD were used to show that water from this supplier is the best alternative.

Department Response: The only possible way to arrive at an estimated cost of water to be provided by an established supplier is to ascertain from that supplier his prevailing pricing structure.

HBMWD has stated publicly in a recent report on water development and expansion that filtered municipal water at elevation 240 feet is available to any potential user within the District at an annual cost of \$19,108 per million gallon per day peak delivery. From this basic water rate, a cost per acre-foot of approximately \$26 was derived for use in Bulletin 105-2, assuming that the peak rate contracted for would actually be used. During the buildup years prior to full use of the contract stipulated amount of water, the per acre-foot cost will be somewhat higher. This unit cost of water compares well with the peak year cost to existing water users in the Eureka and Arcata areas. In the event that water costs were substantially higher at the time of contract negotiations, a new look could be taken at alternative sources of supply.

4. M-Line Reservoir is extremely small and subject to rapid siltation from logging operations. Why didn't the Department consider a higher dam which would eliminate pumping to the service area?

Department Response: An average expected siltation rate was applied to M-Line Reservoir and 300 acre-feet of storage was designated to accommodate the collection of silt. If feasibility-level studies are conducted, this aspect should receive considerably more study. A small reservoir was proposed at M-Line Creek because this is all that is necessary to serve the limited amount of water needed by the Trinidad-Moonstone area. This reservoir is not designed to serve the entire McKinleyville-Trinidad area. Two other reservoirs on Maple Creek were considered for this latter purpose at the beginning of the study and found to be relatively expensive when compared to alternative sources. The suggestion that M-Line Dam be raised 100 feet to take advantage of gravity flow is impractical. The reservoir created would be grossly oversized, having a capacity to store several times the annual amount of natural inflow available at this site. The advantage of developing a gravity diversion system would be far outweighed by the increased cost necessary for the construction of a dam sufficiently high to accomplish this.

5. The damsite location on Lindsay Creek at the State Route 299 undercrossing as proposed in the Tri-Lake Plan is a superior damsite but it was not considered in Bulletin No. 105-2.

Department Response: Bulletin No. 105-2 discusses several alternative damsites on Lindsay Creek. Included among these is a site located immediately south of the State Route 299 bridge crossing Lindsay Creek. The numerous reasons for the Department's choice of a damsite location above Squaw Creek are given in the report.

6. The projected population increases for the McKinleyville-Trinidad area are not realistic in that some subunits have a much higher projected growth rate than others.

Department Response: Our population projections are based both upon an area's potential for growth and the actual historical growth that has occurred. A suitable area which is relatively unpopulated but is located on the outskirts of an expanding metropolitan center has a tremendous potential for locally rapid growth in relation to the metropolitan center. Such is the case in the McKinleyville-Trinidad area where, from 1950 to 1960, the population increased 167 percent while the total county population grew 52 percent. Subunits within the study area such as McKinleyville, Dows Prairie, and Fieldbrook will grow at varying rates depending upon such factors as availability of land, climatic conditions, and distance from work.

Final results of the 1970 census in the study area are not yet available. Preliminary census data indicate an unexpected decrease in the population of both Humboldt County and Eureka. Still, it is possible that the McKinleyville-Trinidad study area will show growth over the past decade while the remainder of Humboldt County has decreased in population.

Some historical and projected growth rates that may serve to place our projections in perspective are presented below:

	<u>Historical</u>	
Humboldt County	1940 to 1960	4% per year
Trinidad	1940 to 1960	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % per year
	<u>Projected</u>	
McKinleyville	1960 to 1990	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ % per year
Trinidad	1960 to 1990	4 $\frac{1}{4}$ % per year
Total Study Area	1960 to 1990	3% per year

7. Considering the defeat of the Dos Rios Dam proposal, would it not be advantageous to have a complete fresh look at the entire and unified water supply of the Humboldt Bay area and seek other more attractive alternatives than the present gigantic size of the Butler Valley Project?

Department Response: There is no particular relationship between Dos Rios and the Butler Valley Project. The Butler Valley Project was selected as the most favorable multiple-purpose alternative for serving the water supply, recreation, and flood control needs of the Humboldt Bay area. The project has been authorized and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently proceeding with preconstruction planning on the project.

B. L. Downard -- Expressed his support for a reservoir on Lindsay Creek in the Fieldbrook area.

John R. Heino -- Asked if a reservoir on Maple Creek wouldn't be cheaper than buying water from HBMWD.

Department Response: At the beginning of our study, two alternative projects on Maple Creek were investigated as a water supply source for the McKinleyville-Trinidad area. These were found to be relatively expensive in comparison to the cost of a pipeline from HBMWD to the service area.

M. E. Lauth, M.D. -- Heartily endorses any effort by McKinleyville to rejoin the growing HBMWD in order to supply the area with clean water. Sewage can be supplied to the ground without contaminating the supply of usable ground water only under certain conditions. These conditions have ceased to exist in the populated areas of McKinleyville. The situation can be expected to become more critical each year.

J. E. "Gene" Pickett -- Endorsed the recommendations of Bulletin No. 105-2 and urged that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors pursue a course of action which will secure public money for the water system, during which time the citizens of McKinleyville can form a proper organization for relieving Humboldt County of these responsibilities.

John W. Simeroth -- Stated that a central water system is needed in McKinleyville and that there will not be a better time for the residents to plan for the project and to go ahead with it than right now. It would be very desirable for the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors to go ahead with forming a subdistrict and making arrangements for handling the application for the loans and the plans.

Ilie J. Smultea -- Spoke for herself and several others from the area south of Trinidad in support of the recommendations in Bulletin No. 105-2. They hope that the service district that is formed is a large one, including the entire McKinleyville-Trinidad area.

Joe Vukonich, Jr. -- Stated that an entity of some kind should be formed to pursue the development of a water system for McKinleyville. The people of the area will have to be sold on the fact that such facilities are needed.

Arthur L. Wilson -- Favored annexation of the McKinleyville-Trinidad area to the HBMWD.

## ACTION TAKEN FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC HEARING

Following the public hearing in June 1969, an additional informational meeting was held in McKinleyville at the request of Assemblywoman Davis, and steps have been taken by local entities to develop water supplies for their individual areas. These activities are discussed in detail in the following sections.

### Public Meeting in October 1969

At the request of Assemblywoman Davis, the Department held a public meeting in McKinleyville on October 29, 1969, to discuss alternative methods of providing new water supplies to the McKinleyville-Trinidad area. While the public hearing in June was directed primarily towards a discussion of the conclusions and recommendations contained in Bulletin No. 105-2, the October meeting was called to provide an opportunity to discuss in greater detail the various project alternatives and funding opportunities that may be available.

Approximately 150 people were present at the October meeting, including four members of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, Messrs. Elwyn L. Lindley, Sam S. Mitchell, Donald F. Peterson, and Guy E. Rusher; the Director of Public Works, Mr. Guy Kulstad; County Counsel, Mr. Ray Schneider; Messrs. John Winzler and Robert Kelly, consulting engineers; Messrs. Dinsmore and Slack, Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District; representatives of the Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation; local Chamber of Commerce; and citizens from other nearby communities.

Mr. Gordon Dukleth, the Department's Northern District Engineer, outlined the various alternatives presented by the Department in Bulletin No. 105-2 and discussed the Davis-Grunsky Act that provides financial assistance for local water projects.

Assemblywoman Davis pointed out that (1) many small water projects in the North Coast area are marginal; (2) she had the Davis-Grunsky program initiated to provide an avenue to get these projects constructed; (3) of the Davis-Grunsky fund of \$130 million, only \$32.5 million is left and when this is gone, there may be no more; (4) her purpose at the meeting is to point out the avenues available for them to take; and (5) she had the Action Program funded.

Mrs. Davis then introduced Mr. Eugene McCabe from the Office of Legislative Counsel of California who explained the functions of the Local Agency Formation Commission.

Mr. Corte Truax from the Redding office of the Economic Development Agency explained EDA's function in making grants for projects which create long-term jobs in areas with chronic unemployment.

The remainder of the meeting consisted of a series of questions, answers, and discussions on water development plans for the area, including a discussion of Subzone 5-1 of the Humboldt County Flood Control District. This subzone was formed by the County to provide water from HBMWD to the McKinleyville area and to expedite application for a Davis-Grunsky loan. Mr. Guy Kulstad, Public Works Director, and Mr. Donald F. Peterson, Humboldt County Supervisor, both pointed out that the County has no desire to go into the water business, but because the situation is critical in McKinleyville, the Board of Supervisors has initiated steps to speed service to the area. Those steps are discussed in detail on page 22, under the heading "Application for Davis-Grunsky Funds".

Dr. Rudolf W. Becking of Arcata and John R. Heino of Eureka raised questions at the meeting that are answered below. In addition, on November 11 following the meeting, Dr. Becking wrote a letter to the Department and the California Water Commission concerning the meeting. This letter and the Department's response are on file in the Northern District Office in Red Bluff.

Dr. Becking (October 29, 1969) -- Many of the comments made by Dr. Becking at this meeting were similar to those presented at the June 30 public hearing (see Summary of Public Hearing Testimony, page 15). His main question at this time was why the Tri-Lake Plan was not studied in detail and compared with other alternatives for supplying water to the McKinleyville-Trinidad area.

Department Response: The Tri-Lake Plan as proposed by Dr. Becking envisions sizable lakes on Maple Creek, Little River, and Lindsay Creek for the multiple-purpose uses of recreation, water supply, and fish enhancement. This three-dam complex is many times larger and more expensive than any of the relatively small reservoirs which the Department considered as alternative sources of water to the McKinleyville-Trinidad area. The Tri-Lake Plan is in reality an alternative to the Butler Valley Reservoir and as such was studied by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. The conclusion of the Corps was that the Tri-Lake complex does not constitute the best overall plan of development when compared with other alternatives. The Department of Water Resources considered a slightly changed version of the Tri-Lake Plan in enough detail to reach the conclusion that the project would not accomplish nearly as much as the Butler Valley Project in the areas of flood control and fish and wildlife enhancement potential. The Department did study in detail a Lindsay Creek Reservoir which appeared to be the most desirable single project in the Tri-Lake complex.

John R. Heino (October 29, 1969)

1. Has HBMWD enough water available to supply the needs of the McKinleyville-Trinidad area?

Department Response: HBMWD presently has contracted for all but 4 mgd of the available 75 mgd safe annual yield from Ruth Reservoir. The 4 mgd available could serve the McKinleyville-Trinidad area through

1985. In addition, another 4 mgd now contracted for by industrial users can be made available for domestic use if the need arises. It is assumed that previous to this time HBMWD would develop another source of supply (i.e., the Butler Valley Project) and the long-term future water requirements of the area would be assured. HBMWD has also studied other possibilities for increasing its water supply capability.

2. Will the Butler Valley Project be built within the foreseeable future?

Department Response: From all evidence available at this time (namely, congressional authorization and endorsement by HBMWD and the County Board of Supervisors) it appears very likely that the Butler Valley Project will be built within 10 to 15 years. Appropriations have been made and preliminary design of the project is now under way by the Corps of Engineers. The Corps estimates a project completion date of 1977.

3. Would annexation of the McKinleyville-Trinidad area to HBMWD entail the risk of paying for pipelines down the Samoa Peninsula to serve the pulp mills at public expense?

Department Response: The pricing policy of HBMWD is to set water rates which will produce revenues sufficient to pay for the recovery of the investment required for the service facilities to those who benefit from such facilities. Municipal water users in Eureka and Arcata do not pay any part of the amortization expenses for the transmission pipeline running from Alliance to the Samoa Peninsula and serving the pulp mills. The basic cost of water to both municipal and industrial users is an annual charge of \$19,108 for a maximum daily delivery of one million gallons at the HBMWD turnout located near Janes School on Alliance Road. For delivery at any other service point along the District's transmission line, an additional charge is made to amortize the added capital expense of pipeline extension to the service area.

4. Could McKinleyville buy water directly from the Butler Valley Project?

Department Response: Yes, any public entity may purchase water from the Butler Valley Project. However, Butler Valley water is not expected to be made available for at least 7 years during which time the McKinleyville area cannot afford to be without a supplemental water supply. In addition, the Corps of Engineers would prefer contracting the entire water supply to one entity rather than portions to numerous entities.

5. Is there enough ground water to serve the needs of McKinleyville? Wouldn't this be the cheapest source of water?

Department Response: Development of ground water to serve the study area for a limited time is a possibility. The Bureau of Reclamation has estimated the potential safe ground water yield of the Dows Prairie Plateau at approximately 2,500 acre-feet per year. The drawbacks in developing a domestic ground water system in this area are twofold. Wells may not produce as expected and the water quality may be seriously impaired

by sewage contamination from septic systems as has previously occurred in the McKinleyville area. Also, ground water may not be the cheapest alternative even for short-term supplies. Individual wells are expensive to construct and maintain. Maintenance often means long periods without water. A community well system would necessitate the construction of a pipeline transmission system. A detailed and costly study would be necessary to reliably establish the ground water potential. The McKinleyville Community Services District is presently exploring the possibility of using ground water in conjunction with purchase of surface water from HBMWD. While ground water development is not suited for a long-term solution to water problems in this area, it may prove attractive when coordinated with a firm surface water supply.

### Application for Davis-Grunsky Funds

The Davis-Grunsky Act, a state program of financial assistance to public agencies for the construction of local water projects, is being applied throughout California. Applications for financial assistance under the Act have been received from the McKinleyville-Trinidad area.

In August 1969, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors formed Humboldt County Flood Control District, Subzone 5-1, for the purpose of pursuing the development of a water distribution system for the McKinleyville-Trinidad area. The boundaries of the subzone included the area north of the Mad River to beyond the City of Trinidad, and easterly to include the community of Fieldbrook. On October 21, 1969, the subzone applied to the Department for a "Preliminary Determination of Eligibility for Financial Assistance Under the Davis-Grunsky Act". A loan of \$5 million was requested for a domestic water supply for the communities of Fieldbrook and the area from McKinleyville to Trinidad along the coast. On December 29, 1969, the Department submitted findings on the application, substantiating the eligibility of the subzone. The District's next step would have been to have a feasibility report prepared spelling out in detail the plans for a water system. However, this may not occur because, in the meantime, the individual areas within Subzone 5-1 have been taking steps to solve their water problems individually.

Three areas have recently formed community services districts and been found to be preliminarily eligible for Davis-Grunsky funds, and one area has already been approved for a loan. These areas and their loan status as of August 1970 are discussed below:

- o Patrick Creek Community Services District submitted an application for preliminary determination of eligibility on August 22, 1969, for a loan of \$48,600 for a domestic water supply. Favorable findings on this application were sent to the District on January 7, 1970.
- o The City of Trinidad's formal request for a loan of \$350,000 under the Davis-Grunsky Act was approved by the California Water Commission on November 7, 1969. The Department and the City signed a contract effective June 23, 1970.

- o McKinleyville Community Services District, formed by election on April 14, 1970, submitted an application for preliminary determination of eligibility on April 21, 1970. The District was informed of its eligibility by letter on July 7, 1970. The application was for a loan of \$4 million to provide a domestic water supply for the McKinleyville area, including the Patrick Creek Community Services District.
  
- o On May 13, 1970, the Fieldbrook Community Services District submitted an application for preliminary determination of eligibility for a loan of \$850,000 for a domestic water supply to serve the area from the Mad River north to Fieldbrook. The District was also found to be eligible on July 7, 1970.



## FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- o Bulletin No. 105-2 was well received by the people in the McKinleyville-Trinidad area and by the officials of the various agencies that are concerned with local water development.
- o A number of important steps necessary to bring adequate water service to the area have already been taken and the outlook is excellent for a successful conclusion of these efforts.
- o The Department recommends that the local community services districts in the McKinleyville-Trinidad area continue to pursue diligently the early completion of their proposed projects. To the extent practical, the separate districts should consolidate for economy of management and unity of purpose.



## WITNESSES

The following individuals and organizations made statements on the bulletin. Several of the statements were presented both orally at the hearing and in written form to the Department of Water Resources. A transcript of this hearing and the original copies of all written comments are on file and available for public review in the Northern District office in Red Bluff.

### Oral Statements

- Mr. Edwin C. Walker, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco
- Mr. R. Dean Thompson, California Water Commission, presented statements as requested by the California State Department of Fish and Game and Dr. Rudolf W. Becking of Arcata
- Mr. J. F. Thorp, California State Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento
- Mr. Guy E. Rusher, Supervisor, County of Humboldt
- Mr. Guy C. Kulstad, Director of Public Works, County of Humboldt
- Mr. Richard A. Sherman, Humboldt County Health Department, Eureka
- Mrs. Gena M. Wright, Humboldt County Health Department, Eureka
- Mr. Karl H. Baruth, Baruth and Yoder, Walnut Creek, Planning Consultants for Humboldt County
- Mr. Fred W. Slack, Director, Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District, Eureka
- Mr. Henry E. Berube, President, Greater Chamber of Commerce in McKinleyville
- Mr. George Berry, Water Committee Chairman, Greater Chamber of Commerce in McKinleyville
- Mr. John R. Heino, Eureka
- Mr. J. E. "Gene" Pickett, McKinleyville
- Mr. T. R. Scott, McKinleyville (presented a statement for Dr. M. E. Lauth of McKinleyville)

Mr. John W. Simeroth, McKinleyville

Mrs. Ilie J. Smultea, Crannell

Mr. Joe Vukonich, Jr., McKinleyville

Written Statements

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Pacific Division, San  
Francisco, Brigadier General W. M. Glasgow, Jr.,  
Division Engineer

California State Department of Fish and Game,  
Mr. G. Raymond Arnett, Director

California State Department of Public Health, Bureau of Sanitary  
Engineering, Mr. H. J. Ongerth, Chief

Baruth and Yoder, Engineers-Planners, Mr. Karl H. Baruth,  
City and Regional Planner, Walnut Creek

The Greater Chamber of Commerce in McKinleyville, Mr. Henry E.  
Berube, President; Mr. George Berry, Water Committee  
Chairman

Dr. Rudolf W. Becking, Forest Research Consultant, Arcata

Mr. B. L. Downard, Arcata

M. E. Lutt, M.D., McKinleyville

Mr. J. E. "Gene" Pickett, McKinleyville

Mr. Arthur L. Wilson, Alhambra



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