

## WATER RIGHTS DIVISION, WRCB, PUBLIC HEARING 07-21-08

Good morning. I'm Mike Schaefer, a registered civil engineer. My 40-year professional career was spent in water resources, mostly in California. During this time, I spent five years as Chief, Construction Division, which oversaw the Auburn Construction Office for the Bureau of Reclamation. After my federal retirement, I served as Senior Staff Engineer for San Joaquin County, which, with the City of Stockton, oversaw the San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency's project to remove 73,000 parcels from the 100-year floodplain in and adjacent areas to Stockton.

Today I am addressing and opposing your Board's proposed revocation of four water permits you issued to the Bureau of Reclamation for the federal Auburn-Folsom South Unit (AFSU) of the Central Valley Project (CVP), authorized in 1965.

These permits are essential for the construction and operation of Auburn Dam. As you know, the federal government has not deauthorized any part of the AFSU. To revoke the permits at this time is 'premature decision-making'. California is facing a water crisis because there have been no major water developments since the 1970's. There is no cost for your Board to extend the permits, while revoking them will only add to the cost of an Auburn Dam when it is built.

We believe, without surprise to the water community, that Auburn Dam has only been put on the back burner. The question is not IF an Auburn Dam will be built, but rather the questions, WHEN?, HOW BIG? and BY WHO? should be asked. I believe Control Boards, like the WRCB should strive to keep requirements in order rather than take actions that will set back progress already made.

The needs for an Auburn Dam have continued although changed since 1965. It is now even more in demand. The need for additional agriculture water is changing to domestic water needs. Our flood protection for the Sacramento area is still the poorest of any large metropolitan area in the U.S.

As our State's focus is now on a solution to the Delta's problems, additional upstream storage is essential. The triple threat to the Delta includes: 1. **Subsidence** (2- 6"/year); 2. An **Earthquake** (6 faults run through or near the Delta); and 3. **Sea level rise** (may be 50-55" by the year 2050). A fourth 'threat' may be that a **Judge** can rule to re-operate the inflow/outflow of the Delta which affects downstream needs of 23 million people and 10 million acres of agriculture. In

2007 the court's ruling to help the Delta smelt affected 500,000 acre-feet of outflow at a cost of \$125 million.

To protect the water supply passing through the Delta, plans are underway to reduce the impact of any natural occurring event. They include a peripheral canal, improving the levee system to engineered standards, and additional upstream storage reservoirs whose releases will help support the hydraulic barrier necessary on the Delta's western side.

The need for Auburn Dam is only minimized when you consider all the solutions necessary for California's water related problems. As a new upstream-of-the-Delta water source, Auburn reservoir joins the Tempest Flat reservoir, Sites reservoir, an enlarged Shasta reservoir, as well as the various groundwater recharge projects that are being considered by several water purveyors.

All of these projects are needed today. If they were all authorized and funded to start tomorrow, it would take 10-25 years or more to complete the planning, environmental impact studies, design and construction of them. It was fortunate that the planners and lawmakers of the 1940's thru the early 1960's were not shortsighted in water needs and development. The fear of today's water community is that it will take a major crisis to move our lawmakers to fix what we know should be fixed today.

I ask that your Board take no action against a project that will play a critical role in solving CA water shortage, the Delta's existence problems, and improve the flood control for Sacramento and surrounding areas. An additional side benefit will be the additional clean energy source that will help provide for the 1000+ new residents coming into California.

Thank you for letting me speak to you today. I'm available to respond to those questions you may have